

APPENDIX No. 3

a large business. Perhaps some gentlemen of the Committee may know of their operations in Canada. The agent writes me as follows:—

STRATFORD, ONT.

DEAR SIR,—On behalf of Swift & Company I have become very much interested in the poultry business in Ontario and would like very much if we could be a means of assisting farmers to produce and better finish a better class of poultry for table use.

Of the 75,000 to 100,000 head which we killed during the past season, a very large proportion of them, especially chickens, were of poor varieties and too thin for marketing.

From personal visits through districts in the United States one cannot fail to be impressed with the superior quality of the poultry itself, both as to breed and feeding and methods of handling. One of the weak features in Ontario is that there is such a large proportion of small thin breeds, such as Leghorns, Game and one or two black breeds.

The writer of the letter is strictly correct. We have too many non-descripts in the barnyard. Then he goes on to say:—

We are also behind in Canada in regard to the establishment of feeding stations, but I have good reason for thinking that there will be great advancements made during the next few years in establishing feeding stations, so that one of the chief reasons for taking up this question with you is the hope of securing the co-operation of your department in encouraging the raising of Barred Rocks and other types of poultry which are better adapted for table use.

We believe that handlers of poultry on the other side, especially in Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Illinois have done a good deal to improve the breeds suitable for table use by exchanging good breeds pound for pound or bird for bird with the farmers for the purpose of weeding out these small varieties. We hope to see the large dealers in Ontario adopt the same policy, and from a conversation which I had recently with the principal operators I believe that it will be done. I would suggest that you might be able to do a good deal through the public speakers representing your department on Farmers' Institute deputations and other sources.

I shall be glad to hear from you with any suggestion that you have to make whereby we may be able to be of some service in the direction indicated, and hope that we may have your co-operation in the direction that I have indicated.

Now, here is a gentleman representing a firm which does a large poultry business in the United States and Canada, and he says his business operations are curtailed by the lack of the right types of fowls throughout the country for fattening. The situation is one that I consider worth laying before your committee. I think it worth consideration. It amounts to this, that the two poultry purchasing firms I have mentioned—Mr. Ashton of Morrisburg, Ont., and Messrs. Swift & Co. of Stratford, Ont.—are actually seeking for a quality of birds that the farmers do not produce. Am I not justified in saying that in these cases the market has actually come to the farmers.

ARE EGGS LARGELY IMPORTED?

By Mr. Schaffner:

Q. Do you know how many eggs and how much poultry is imported into Canada each year?

A. I have not the figures with me but I could send you the information.

Q. A farmer might say, and indeed does say, that if everybody went into the raising of poultry—and you say they should have at least 200 hens to make it profitable—he might say there would not be a market. That is what I would like to know,—if the market can be increased and are we importing to any great extent to-day?