

It is the little things that often make or unmake great industries. We do not intend to offer any advice as to the best breeds of poultry, further than to say that farmers do not, as a rule, look after their poultry with that intelligence and care that is bestowed on other live stock of the farm. Experts tell us that by selecting only the best layers for breeders and mating to suitable pure-breeds, the average egg production of the whole flocks has in a few years been raised from 150 to 250 eggs per annum. In addition the size of the eggs has been increased, a very important item, as in the export trade it is essential that the eggs should average one and one-half pounds per dozen. When it is taken into account that competent authorities place the average yield of hens for a season in the Province of Ontario at less than 100 eggs, it will be readily seen how much is to be gained by paying more attention to the hennery. In this connection it is interesting to note that on March 18th, when a committee was in session considering a bill to amend the Weights and Measures Act, Mr. Milligan, of Huron, gave notice that when the bill came up again he would move in amendment that eggs be sold by weight, and that the standard weight be one and one-half pounds. It is expected that the Bill will soon come up again for consideration.

The loss in the value of eggs offered in Toronto and other markets through careless handling, is each year considerable. The slightest crack renders the egg valueless for pickling or cold storage purposes, and when sold as "checks" or cracked eggs, from two to three cents per dozen less than standard prices must be accepted. Collected from the nests in a haphazard way and carried to the market over rough roads in an ordinary basket, there is usually considerable breakage before the eggs reach the store, where they run the chance of further loss by the handling of the merchant or his assistants. Loss in this way is inevitable so long as proper egg carriers are not used. These egg cases can be purchased at a very nominal figure, say twenty-five cents for a thirty dozen case, and by careful usage will last for years.

"Keep the eggs clean," is the advice which every merchant would impress upon the owners of poultry. An abundance of fresh straw in the hen house is not a heavy expense, and is essential to a profitable market. If in spite of care the eggs should become dirty,

then by no means wash them, as this process removes a glutinous covering from the shell and impairs their keeping qualities.

We do not pretend to be able to prophesy as to the course of the egg trade in Great Britain the coming season. It, however, does not require any prophetic gift to make a forecast of large receipts and comparatively low values the season through. The prospects are that in the British Isles the production of eggs will be larger than ever, while in addition to the usual supplies from France, Belgium and Denmark, a phenomenal movement of eggs from new sources in Russia is predicted. Although these eggs are inferior to those of Canada and cannot be shipped to Great Britain under as advantageous conditions, they must be counted as entering into competition with our product and will, beyond doubt, have an adverse effect upon market values. Last year, it will be remembered, the Americans made a somewhat spirited bid for the export trade, and it is estimated that they sent more than a million dozen eggs to Great Britain. This year it is reasonable to expect very large shipments from the United States, as last year's operations were in the nature of an experiment. Egg dealers in that country have suffered serious losses for a number of seasons by the cold storage of eggs, and now prefer to divert a portion of their stocks to British markets.

Neither the Provincial nor the Dominion government has provided statistics as to the production of eggs in Canada, and it is impossible to compare, with accuracy, the present situation with that of past years. Our government agricultural officials might render great service to the trade if they would turn the present organization for the collection of farm statistics to secure more complete and better classified returns as to poultry and products. Our own observations lead us to believe that there will be material increase in the output of eggs this year, and offerings are now much larger than at the same date in previous years.

What are the lessons to be drawn from the experiences of past seasons and the prospects of the present season? In addition to care, intelligence and promptness in marketing on the part of producers and merchants, eggs should be purchased at a reasonable basis of prices. In the large centres of production in the United States dealers are now paying seven cents per dozen for eggs, and count on purchasing the bulk of