THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

Egg Circles.

An important part of the poultry work of the Live-stock Branch of the Department of Agriculture during the past year has been the organization of Co-operative Egg Circles. Ten circles in all have been organized under the auspices of the Branch, working in conjunction with the Provincial and Agricultural College authorities, and the Poultry Producers' Association of Canada. The preliminary work in connection with a number of others has been done, and from present indications it is apparent that this phase of co-operative work is likely to have a rapid growth in the near future. Being primarily concerned with the improvement of the Canadian egg trade, the Live-stock Branch has encouraged the formation of these circles because the movement affords a means whereby the quality of eggs can be improved as they leave the farm, and the pernicious practice of holding eggs, both on the farm and in the country store, largely eliminated. Co-operative effort of this kind also affords a medium whereby the eggs in any given community may be collected and marketed frequently and regularly, and insures to the consumer a new-laid egg of uniform quality, at no great increase in cost.

At the time of joining the association, the members agree to stamp each egg with a given number designated by the Board of Directors. This is done so that the eggs of each member may be identified when graded and payment made according to quality.

A manager is appointed by the Board of Directors, whose business it is to collect, grade, sell the eggs, and apportion the returns among the members according to the quantity and quality received. In most circles, the eggs from each farm are collected at stated intervals, but in others the members deliver the eggs to some central point, such as a creamery, cheese factory, store, or house, from which the manager makes the shipment.

It is well known that at certain seasons of the year there is a wide difference between the price received for eggs by the farmer in the country store and the price paid by the consumer in the city. This difference is not nearly so marked in the spring of the year as it is in the late summer, fall and winter. In other words, as the quality of ordinary farm eggs becomes more uncertain, the premium placed on new-laid circle eggs increases. While during the spring of the year prices received by circle members may not greatly exceed those paid in the local store, it is a fact that for the eggs produced in the month of December last year, the majority of ch cles in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec received a price of from 45c to 50c. a dozen.

A limited number of circles will no doubt be able to take advantage of the rapidly-growing select trade in the larger Canadian cities, but from the

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FTER investigating the various roofing materials in use to-day, you will conclude that "GALT" Steel Shingles make not only the best, but also the cheapest roof you could put on your building.

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About one-third of the 800 Southdown lambs at Applisham, Shoreham, were twins. A flock of 100 halfbred ewes, owned by J. J. Keswick, Annan, have produced 200 lambs this spring. Ten of the ewes had triplets, mostly taken and mothered by ewes with single lambs, a wonderful crop of lambs, good and strong. To cap the climax, eighteen ewes in the flock of Sir James Rankin, Bart, Herefordshire, have produced 89 lambs, including four triplets and one quintet.

pairs of twins, and six instances of

the wholesale egg dealers in Ontario and Quebec have recently adopted a new system of buying on a basis of quality, it is likely that the product of the majority of circles will find its way to the consumer through the more recently established channels of trade.

The Live-stock Branch stands ready and willing to help on the egg-circle movement in every possible way. Officers of this Branch are now in the field, and there is available a quantity of literature, including outlines of constitutions, by - laws, etc., dealing with the work, copies of which may be obtained upon request from the Live-stock Commissioner, Ottawa.

M. L. Haley, of Haley Bros., the wellknown breeders of Holstein cattle, Springford. Ont., writes, in ordering a change of advertisement, that owing to the protracted illness of M. H. Haley, they have decided not to exhibit at Toronto next autumn, and are offering all their extra choice show stock in all classes. Anyone desirous of purchasing some topnotchers in show-yard quality, should write Haley Bros., Springford, Ont.

Sixty-nine head of Hereford cattle, the property of various owners, were sold by alletion at South Omaha, Neb., April 16th, for an average of \$161. Bulls were in greatest demand, fifty-five head averaging \$168. The highest price for a female was \$410, and for a bull, \$355.

