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average cost, or in other words what should the farmer or egg producer obtain for his eggs in order to get a fair profit?

A. A farmer should be able to produce a dozen eggs which would sell in the city at 55 cents for 11 cents.

Q. Is that in winter?

A. That is in winter. In the summer the cost should be 6 or 7 or 8 cents a dozen. In the old times it did not cost so much hardly, but with the increased prices of feed the cost is correspondingly greater.

Q. In estimating that cost are you just taking into consideration the keep of the fowl or the money invested in the poultry house?

A. No, that is just the cost of the feed. The value of the hen manure ought to pay for the labour. Not many years ago we sold the hen manure to a tannery at one dollar per barrel, but a chemical now takes its place for tanning purposes, but as a manure it is invaluable. We have always reckoned that it ought to pay for the labour expended in the care of the hen.

By Mr. Best:

Q. Are you giving us the cost per dozen at the farm here or the cost as it is figured out at some other place?

A. I am giving you the estimated cost to the farmers per dozen during the winter season.

Q. That is on the farm here?

A. No, but to the ordinary farmer. On the farm we may have to buy a certain amount of various foods for experiment and we calculated that the cost is 13 cents a dozen, but our eggs are of very high quality. There are none of better flavour or more nutritious in the country.

Q. I understood a year ago that it took a good many dollars to take care of each hen.

A. It was not so. It is to be remembered that we are an experimental department, and if it did cost above the ordinary per hen to find out facts in egg production in order to start the farmers right and prevent them from committing mistakes, it would be carrying out the experimental principal to the full. I think the Committee will agree with me in that. We experiment chiefly for the benefit of the farmer. If you desire me to run a commercial poultry plant you have only to give me the stock in numbers sufficient and the plant, and I will soon make it pay. But as long as we are an experimental station we have to do experimental work, and we have found that some of our failures have been as valuable in their teaching as many of our successes. It is more important to be able to tell, at times, what not to do.

COST OF PRODUCING A GOOD CHICKEN.

By Mr. Marshall:

Q. Are there not a good many now producing poultry for the market to say nothing of eggs?

A. There are.

Q. What can you produce poultry for?

A. That depends entirely on the kind of stock and how they are handled. The farmer has a great opportunity to produce the best types of poultry. He has wide range for his fowls, and ought to be able to feed his fowls much cheaper than we do who have a limited range.

Q. The reason I asked is that we are large packers of poultry—I think we had something like 150 tons last year and we paid 14 or 15 cents a pound. It seems to me there ought to be pretty good money for the producer. We get them dressed with the legs and heads cut off. So when you are speaking of lots of money being in the production of eggs, we find in the section I am living in that there is a lot of money in producing poultry for the market?