

Agriculture and Colonization.

EGGS SOLD AT THE HIGHEST PRICES.

Having obtained the new laid eggs in the season of highest prices, the aim was to dispose of them to the best possible advantage. With a little effort the best results were obtained. The following is an instance:—

On the 30th of December, as shown in the above table, the greatest number of eggs laid on any day in that month were collected, viz., five dozen and eight (68). These eggs were disposed of at the following prices:—

5 dozen and 8 eggs at 35 cents per dozen.....	\$1 93
Deduct cost of rations.....	0 41

Proceeds of that day..... \$1 52

But as that was the day of the greatest production, it is but fair to give the average of the month, which was 48, or four dozen per day.

4 dozen eggs at average price of 33 cents per dozen.....	\$1 32
Deduct cost of rations.....	0 41

0 91

The lowest figure represents nearly 100 per cent profit. But you say that these calculations are based on exceptionally high prices. Let us take the lowest figures in June of last year. One day in June, Mr. Alexander McLean, President of the North Lanark Farmers' Association, came to me and said: "Mr. Gilbert, you have been in North Lanark attending institute and public meetings during the past three years with the result that there has been such an increased output of eggs that the price has gone down to 8 cents per dozen." This conversation was in June. I said: "Why don't your people get their eggs in the winter time?" He said: "We have not all got that far yet, but there are some who are doing so now." "As things are," he added, "the bottom has fallen out of the market, there is no profit in eggs at 8 cents per dozen." When he was gone I went to my book and turned over to the rations fed to the 50 hens that I was ordered to keep account of by your Committee of Agriculture of 1896, and I found that we fed the 50 hens in the winter for ten cents per day. I looked at the rations which cost the ten cents, and found that they were composed of:

	Cents.
3½ pounds of cut bone at 1 cent per pound.....	3½
5 pounds wheat or buckwheat.....	5
Grit and vegetables	1½

	10

Fifty hens running at large would supply themselves with insect life, green stuff and grit which would be half of the ten cents, leaving five cents to buy five pounds of grain. At that time four cents would buy five pounds of grain. So that he would have his dozen of eggs which sold at eight cents at a cost of only four cents, a margin of 100 per cent profit on the dozen. But 50 hens running at large would lay more than one dozen per day. I have submitted the figures named to many farmers, and they have all said that they were correct. The farmers do not look at profit from eggs in summer in that way. But they should. I have given you the results of experiments at high prices in one case and at very low prices in the other. Mr. McLean, whom I afterwards met, was perfectly satisfied that I had shown him that there was a profit in eggs at 8 cents a dozen.