

First.—Non-appreciation of what a strictly new laid egg means.

Second.—Holding back eggs until he has a sufficient number to make it worth while taking them to market. Meanwhile the eggs stale.

Third.—Keeping his fowls in ill-constructed and unsanitary poultry houses. Very frequently both hens and houses are lice infested or suffer from disease.

A point brought out at the Committee meeting of last year in connection with this third point was the great demand by the hospitals, particularly by the tuberculosis hospitals for strictly new laid eggs, as they are considered a specific in cases of incipient tuberculosis. The virtue in such eggs is for the reason that they are strictly new laid by well and cleanly fed hens. Hence they are highly nutritious. Now, if lice are allowed to first take the nourishment from the blood of the hen, it is not likely that she will lay as nutritious an egg as one laid by a hen entirely lice free. It is too common on the part of farmers to have ill-constructed houses and to allow both houses and hens to become infested with lice. This fact has such an important bearing on the nourishing quality of the egg that it is worth while bringing it to the attention of the Committee. I emphasize this because the evidence given before this Committee goes to the farmers in all parts of the country and they will undoubtedly benefit by paying attention to this point.

Fourth.—Another drawback is the lack of appreciation of variety in the composition of the daily ration. A lack of variety leads to egg eating, eggs being laid with soft shells or no shells at all, and to feather eating, which are two most discouraging vices. Overcrowding of the poultry houses is also an incentive to the vices named.

Fifth.—Another bad practice is in having late hatched chickens. As a result the pullets instead of laying in October or early November, do not do so until late in January or February, when the season of best prices is over.

There is a fact in connection with the select trade that I should like the farmers to more fully appreciate than they do, and it is, that the producer who wins a reputation for supplying the best eggs and the best quality of poultry is not likely to lack customers. On the other hand the producer who sells stale or doubtful eggs is not likely to be certain of a customer. If he takes in a customer once he is not likely to do the same person again. He is not in a position to say, 'My eggs will prove their worth and so stand by me.'

Sixth.—Another point in which the average farmer is frequently remiss is neglect in caring for his chickens at an early age, particularly during the first five or six weeks of their existence. If the wish is to have plump chickens to go into the fattening pen, the chickens must be well cared for from the time of hatching.

SCRAGGY TYPES NOT DESIRABLE.

The keeping of small and scraggy types rather than those which make plump and fleshy market fowls as well as good layers is very objectionable. It is a most important matter for the farmer to consider. As proof of the disastrous effects on the development of poultry of the proper table type, I may state that Mr. Ashton of Morrisburg, Ont., who is extensively engaged in the fattening of poultry for the high quality market, was sent to me at the Experimental Farm, by Mr. Andrew Broder, the Hon. Member for Dundas, to discuss practical poultry development along the lines of suitable table types. Mr. Ashton made the extraordinary statement that his business was seriously curtailed for the reason that he could not get birds of the proper type, to fatten, in quantity enough. I asked him what he proposed as a remedy for this state of affairs. Before I give his proposition allow me to read another letter along the same lines as we have been discussing. The letter is from the agent of a large United States firm, a poultry branch of which is situated in Stratford. The firm is Swift & Co., of Chicago, and I think they kill 10,000 birds a day in the United States. They have come into Canada, and are preparing to do