

Cold Storage for Poultry.

The business of growing and fattening chickens, and other poultry, can be very materially assisted by the use of cold storage. Without such facilities, the killing must be postponed until cold weather sets in, and mistakes are frequently made in killing too soon with serious financial loss. Cold storage makes the poultry farmer independent of the weather, and the fattening season can be considerably extended by beginning earlier.

Cold Storage for Fruit.

The fruits of Canada are noted for their tender, luscious qualities, which is synonymous with saying that they require careful handling and protection, to check the rapidity of their life processes, as compared with the dryer and less juicy fruits grown in other climates.

There is no food product grown in Canada which comes within the perishable class, to which the use of cold storage can be applied with more benefit than it can be to some of the fruits. The apple is Canada's most important fruit, and not the least dependent upon cold storage if the most is to be made out of the crop. Every farmer who keeps a few barrels of apples for his winter use, recognizes the effect of cold storage in prolonging the life of his apples, by keeping them in a cellar which will be as cold as possible without freezing. What is not so generally recognized is the fact that low temperatures are most effective to this end if the apple is placed therein *immediately* after being taken off the tree. When this course is adopted, the ripening process is checked at a time when it would naturally proceed very rapidly, especially as the warmest weather to which the apple will be exposed is likely to prevail at the time the crop is being harvested. A few days' cold storage at this stage is of more value than as many weeks later on. There are districts in Ontario, admirably adapted for the growing of apples, but where the length of the warm season frequently causes great loss and discouragement to the grower, by carrying the apple to a stage of maturity which interferes seriously with its keeping quality. Cold storage would be an especial benefit to the apple grower in such localities.

For these reasons it is obvious that the proper location for a cold storage warehouse, intended for apples, is as near to the point of production as possible.

The great bulk of apples in relation to value, as compared with some other products* is a practical difficulty from the warehouseman's standpoint, because he finds it hard to get remunerative rates. Further, the season is short and other goods are not always to be had in the interval, particularly in a district devoted to fruit growing. The solution of the difficulty would appear to be to organize the cold storage business on such a basis that it would be credited with a part at least of the enhanced value of the apples, and the logical suggestion is that there should be some form of co-operation among the fruit growers to carry out the idea.

General.

The foregoing are some of the considerations which prompted the Government to adopt the policy of subsidizing new cold storage warehouses.

The provisions of the Cold Storage Act have been drafted with a view of securing safe storage for perishable farm products in districts not at present provided with such facilities. The requirements of trade in certain localities has made cold storage an absolute necessity, and in such places the revenue is sure enough to make the investment a fairly safe one, so that it needed no special inducement to secure the capital required to provide the necessary facilities.

* A cubic foot of butter is worth 24 times as much as the same quantity of apples.