

mate aim. If it is, it is not the object the Government had in view in making you your grant. It is a only means to an end. You gentlemen who are prominent in the breeding of fowls, bring them here primarily to win prizes but they are an educative medium also. You present the ideals that the people are to copy. The visitor to your exhibition becomes enthusiastic over what he sees: He says, I would like a fowl like that. Men who are away behind go home with more inspiration. I do when I come, and I presume this will be the experience of hundreds and thousands of our people who attend our different exhibitions. You present the ideals and you carry away the prizes you fairly win, but this is only a small matter—the bulk of our people are not here, but are looking for correct information,—information that you gentlemen have at your fingers' ends, as to how to go about this work. I want the members of this Association to undertake the unselfish task of being a means of communicating this information. Will you do that? It is a new idea to some, but it was the idea the Legislature had in view in giving you your grant. You have seen some of the reports that we publish in my department. Here is a copy of your report,—you have all seen it,—don't it look a little thin? (Laughter) I mean exactly what I say. I think if you read it through you will find that it is a little thin inside too, although the quality may be very good. That report ought to be one of the most useful that goes from my department. Why do I say that? I never came in contact with an Association in connection with any of our Agricultural Industries that had a better, brighter and more intelligent membership than this. I never met men who were better able to express themselves, who had more information about their business and could give more to the public than this Association. But the information is not in that report. You had a live wide-awake discussion on one of the papers read at your meeting last year and published in your report, but it was all lost to the outside world. Those who were present took it in but no one else received any benefit from it. I venture to say that there was scarcely a member of the Association, wise as I have no doubt they are, but gained a little information from that discussion. None of us possess all the knowledge there is in connection with any particular subject. When I find a man no matter what he produces who thinks that wisdom is going to die with him, and that he knows everything there is to know, and cannot be induced to impart it to others, I have a man that I have no use for in any Association.

I understand from your Secretary that this year you are going to give me a good deal more in the way of information than has ever been given before, and that instead of this

this report, we shall have a more valuable one; I am very glad to know it.

You may say I am asking you to undertake a very unselfish sort of task. I do not know whether it is or not. Suppose you give me a report such as the people of the country will value and containing valuable suggestions and information relating to this particular industry? Suppose I send out twelve or fifteen thousand copies of it to be read in the homes of the farmer of every county of this Province, what is accomplished? An additional interest is aroused in connection with this particular branch of agriculture; people become awakened to the possibilities of greater profit by better methods; they look at their own poultry, and say, we can improve these. If you have given them sufficient information, they will probably set about it, and after a while you will find a greater demand for this better class of birds. This you will be able to supply. The next result will be that you will add to your profits, the farmer will add to his wealth, and the rest of the people will look on and smile because they see you both getting a little richer; and they know that an additional opportunity will be offered to induce you to part with your riches at the first favorable chance. The result will be that the wealth of our entire Province will be greatly increased.

I want to say another thing, and I hope you will not think I am trying to offer any instruction, because I do not feel competent to do that; but is it not true that most of our people are breeding poultry entirely by guess work. It would puzzle a man wiser than "a Philadelphia lawyer" to know to what breed the birds belong. They may be useful, but it is entirely guess work. They gather their eggs by the basket-full and set them the same way. Supposing they have one particular breed, there may be specimens of that breed that lay earlier in the season or produce larger eggs, etc., but they have no knowledge of them. Or by proper selection in this particular breed they may be able to produce along these lines exactly what they are seeking for. In order to do that they would need to have an ideal before them, some definite aim and purpose. This is something that I would like our people generally to have definite information about.

I am a strong believer myself in selection, whether it be in raising grain, cattle, poultry, or anything else. I believe that we run out a great deal of our grain because there is no attention paid to selection. I have seen men selling seed wheat of a certain variety year by year, and it does not seem to run out. Why? Because they find that at a particular spot in the field there is an extra sample. They take