

APPENDIX No. 3

good layers as well as of good market type. On the hatching out of the chicks he would sell them at nominal cost, or have them given away to the farmers in the neighbourhood when only one day old. As is doubtless well known to your committee the sale of day old chicks is becoming a large business. He thinks that in this way farmers who did not have them might be induced to take advantage of the opportunity of obtaining desirable types of table poultry, which when properly grown would be sold to the fattening stations or on the market. Anyway, an attempt would be made to have a uniform type of desirable market fowls as well as good layers placed in the hands of the farmers throughout the country. At the same time they should be urged to discard the smaller specimens.

Another plan somewhat similar to the one just outlined and which, perhaps, would be more easily put into operation, is the opening of poultry plants at all the outlying branch farms and stations and to make them distributing centres of stock, eggs, information, &c., &c., to farmers throughout the country surrounding these farms.

By Mr. Thornton:

Q. Let me ask you a question, has not that been tried to a certain extent during the past year?

A. No.

Q. Or something in the way of experiments in different districts, and has it not been found to be a failure?

A. The fattening of chickens, or what is called the crate fattening of chickens by forced feeding was tried some years ago but abandoned.

By Mr. Kidd:

Q. That was by means of cramming machines?

A. Yes, by cramming machines. I do not think the experiment was exactly in the hands of experienced men.

CHICKENS MUST BE OF CORRECT TYPE AND PROPERLY CARED FOR.

You cannot take any kind of chicken and put it into the fattening crate and so make it a desirable type. Not only must the chicken be of correct type, but be carefully fed and attended to from the time it is hatched. This whole question is surrounded with difficulties. The object is not only to have hens that will lay well in winter, when the eggs are high in price, but are also proper types of table poultry. Apparently easy of accomplishment but in reality a matter of no little difficulty.

The establishment of such poultry divisions at the branch experimental farms and stations, as suggested by our Director, Mr. Grisdale, is, I think, along the right lines of poultry development. It is a matter for congratulation that there is a prospect of having work along such practical lines carried out. The farmer cannot fail to receive benefit.

Q. Now, before you leave this question, I understood you to state earlier in your remarks that the production of eggs in the United States was \$700,000,000; did that include eggs alone or eggs and poultry?

A. Both; the figures represent the value of the poultry industry to the United States for the year 1909.

By Mr. Wright:

Q. Have you anything in your report to show how much space ought to be devoted to each hen in the house?

A. Yes, there should not be less than six square feet of floor space to each bird.

By Mr. Edwards:

Q. Have you estimated the average cost of producing a dozen eggs where hens are kept under proper conditions and including the price of the feed? What is the