the school of experience they would never have sunk their thousands recklessly in large poultry plants.

Poultry literature makes very good reading and poultry keeping looks good on books, both from the artistic point of view and also from the poultry-for-profit view point; but it is an altogeher different thing to go out and do the actual work. Then, too, you can sit down and figure out a fortune in poultry keeping quicker than in anything else, but the question is to get it out. If we had less theory advanced by our would be poultry men and more actual fact, the poultry industry as a whole would be a good deal farther ahead.

Nothing has led to more confusion in poultry work than two ideas advanced from two competitive sources, and this is only natural for the ignorant or unversed beginner does not know who or which or what is correct, and therefore trusts to his or her own knowledge.

Uniformity of Information

There is, however, some uniformity of information sifted out from various sources. The backyard poultry raisers have things in common, and what are one man's difficulties are also those of another man, and any advice or exchange of opinion given is usually practicable. The large poultry raisers again are in a field of work by themselves, and we find all large plants operated on practically the same basis, and therefore they have problems in common. The heads of poultry departments of agricultural colleges all have a similar field of work, and one man's problems are also largely those of the others. Most of these men have reached their position thru hard practical labor from the small farm flock thru the extensive poultry plant operated on a commercial basis to that of a college plant operated on a semi-commercial and farm basis. From which of these three sources the farmer can gain the most of value we leave for him to judge. If the college poultryman is alive to his duties and opportunities the farmers will not be doing full justice to themselves unless they take advantage of all the assistance he can give them.

This Season's Outlook

At this date the poultry outlook for 1916 is none too promising. The fertility is comparatively high, but the hatching power has been exceptionally low in the incubator eggs—the very long winter season is probably the chief reason for this. It looks now as the the farmers who are hatching with hens will have to continue hatching at least up to June 20. The long winter delayed spring broodiness and there is now a scarcity of broody hens. All chicks hatched after June 15 require special care and feed in order to grow and mature properly by the time the cold weather comes. Our farmers would do well to heed the advice or else there will be an enormous lot of poorly developed chickens on hand this fall.

The wholesale prices of eggs are remaining very firm, with an upward tendency. The supply this season is comparatively low compared to last year. Long-continued cold spring weather is having its effect on egg production, and the wholesale houses are experiencing some difficulty in getting the supply they want. Egg production is going up and down all spring. Under ordinary conditions there is generally a gradual increase in egg yield until the highest production is reached, but this year it is quite erratic going up and down continually. Smaller farm flocks due to fewer chickens grown last year and large numbers of hens sold off at last year's good prices are also having their effects on this spring's egg yield. We may look forward to good firm prices for eggs all summer.

Educate the Consumer

In The Grain Growers' Guide issue of April 5 is a short letter headed, "Educate the Consumer," in which certain problems are discussed in connection with the improving of farm eggs. The last paragraph of this letter supports our contention that the producer must be educated first or else how can we have co-operation for improving farm eggs? By way of illustration, let me point out the condition of the egg trade in Prince Edward Island four years ago under the old system of production and marketing. At that time the "Island" eggs were the poorest eggs sent to Montreal markets. Today they are the best. "Island" eggs also compete on the Boston markets and a premium of 2 cents a dozen was paid for these eggs in preference to "nearby hennery" eggs, which were the highest class of eggs on Boston markets previous to the introduction of "Island" eggs. What has brought about this change? The market was there, it only required education on the methods of production, handling and marketing. Winnipeg markets compare quite favorably with the above as regards market demands for high class eggs. It does not necessarily follow that because this one firm failed there are no others. We grant that our consumers need to be educated as to quality of poultry products, but the trouble is that there are under the present system two eggs bad out of every dozen marketed, and it stands to reason that what caused these two to go "bad" will also affect the quality of the others, and the consumer is taking the chance on these eggs even if they guaranteed to boil, fry or poach. Why do consumers pay 75c and 80c a dozen for guaranteed new laid eggs when they can get other eggs at 40c a dozen? But the great bulk of eggs going on the market go thru the wholesaler's and retailer's hands before they reach the consumer. In tracing out the lesson in eggs we are also brought face to face with the fact that approximately 70 per cent of it occurs thru inferior methods on the farms and the rest in transit and at the dealer's end. It is impossible to change market conditions as far as trade demands go, at least. In Winnipeg there is a market for non-fertile eggs during the summer season, but not every city has such a demand, and in such places it is simply a question of educating the consumer to the better quality of such eggs. But a very small percentage of the consumers can get fresh eggs, as it takes from 10 to 14 days for farm eggs to reach them under the present systems of marketing, and therefore the average consumer has but little chance of knowing the good qualities of high class eggs. The non-fertile egg is of comparatively recent date on any market, and is the direct result of an attempt to overcome some of the losses that occur. As time goes on and a larger number of farmers are producing a better class of eggs the consumers will be afforded an opportunity to find out for themselves what really good eggs are like.

CO-OPERATIVE BUSINESS IN U.S.

Farmers' co-operative marketing and purchasing organizations will transact this year a total of business amounting to more than $1,400,000,000, according to an estimate made in the annual report of the office of Markets and Rural Organizations of the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. Whilst agricultural co-operation in the United States is far more prevalent than is generally believed, the report says that it is not yet upon a sufficiently strong business basis. For this reason the office has studied the various methods employed and is endeavoring to aid in perfecting them.

CAPITAL WAS TIMID

Canadian capital was timid. That is the excuse given by the members of the shell committee for not placing orders in this country. We believe it to be true—as regards the timidity, at any rate. Truth is that we have so long depended on a tariff to protect us and to make every enterprise a sure thing that we have lost most of our industrial backbone. We have forgotten how to defend ourselves in the markets of the world and are afraid to meet the foreigner on equal terms. And that sort of cowardice is worse than all the accusations that can be brought against the pacifists.—Journal of Commerce.

As the calves grow older a mixture of ground oats, wheat bran and a very little corn meal fed dry in a trough is very helpful.

Do not abuse the calf when teaching it to drink by jamming its head in the milk up to its eyes.

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