

*Supply—Egg Grading*

as very good for cooking, but nobody wants a straight duck's egg for breakfast. Somebody might offer a bunch of pigeons' eggs about the size of your nail. On the other hand a number of people might like big double-yolkers. Perhaps out on the farm the children will be running around hunting behind wood piles and in other places and find maybe fifty or sixty eggs clawed over for several days or weeks by each hen using the nest and with finger prints on them. Back they come with their arms full of these eggs, delighted at their find. Is that the kind of eggs my hon. friend wants on the local market? Every man to his taste!

Section 5 reads:

Every case or container of eggs that is exposed, displayed or offered for sale by any person selling or delivering eggs direct to consumers in a public place or manner shall be marked, labelled, tagged or accompanied in conspicuous letters with the name of the class and grade of eggs according to the Canadian standards.

That is the regulation requiring that all who go on the market and sell eggs as retailers must be figured alike. As I said before I am ready to refer this bill at a moment's notice to the Agricultural committee and see if it cannot be improved upon in any way. I would think it would be not a kindness but an unkindness to make the change, but perhaps my views are biased in the matter so that I will defer to what others think of it. This is a telegram received recently by Mr. Brown, Chief of the Poultry Division, from Mr. Clemens. Apparently he must have heard of this. The echoes of these things have reached Toronto from Guelph. This is the telegram:

Chief of Poultry division, Live Stock branch, Ottawa, Ont. In the interests of producers and consumers it would be disastrous to discontinue the grading of eggs on public markets and dealers' warehouses. Egg grading has most certainly increased home consumption, established confidence between producer and consumer and with our increasing production the farmer cannot afford to return to old slipshod way of selling eggs.

That is from the general manager of the United Farmers' Co-operative Company. Many hon. members must know Mr. Clemens who was in Ottawa about a month ago working out a proposal to construct a co-operative cold storage plant in Toronto for the purpose of storing eggs when the storage season would commence. That gentleman's testimony is worth something and I understand he represents at least 30,000 farmers. I have another telegram the substance of which indicates that on the Toronto market itself they are highly in favour of egg-grading and would be sorry to depart from it even on the local market.

[Mr Motherwell.]

I think if there was a grievance down by the sea they would discover it. I want to pay this tribute to the Maritimes; they have made more advance in the matter of production of eggs on a quality basis than any other part of Canada, even than British Columbia, and that is saying a great deal. This is particularly true of Prince Edward Island. They are great advocates of grading eggs and selling according to our standard, and they insist on that. Part of our recreation is to stand these gentlemen off in their protestations that we are not going forward more quickly than we are in completing this system. This is a resolution passed by the New Brunswick Poultry Exchange at their annual meeting in January, 1926, before it was ever whispered abroad that my hon. friend contemplated this momentous motion:

Whereas the Canadian egg regulations as at present existing have provided a common basis of trading, and created confidence in egg trading.

And whereas consumption of eggs in Canada has gradually increased since the regulations went into effect so that our average per capita consumption is now 25 dozen annually.

That is correct. Fourteen years ago it was only sixteen dozen annually. In other words, we have made a market. Since the egg regulations came into force Canada consumes at home over 80,000,000 dozen eggs more than she did previously. We export only 3,000,000 dozen. What will you do with the 77,000,000 dozen and what will you get for them if you have to sell them as storage eggs abroad? The resolution continues:

And whereas under the present regulations Canadian eggs have found ready sale in British markets,

Resolved, that the New Brunswick Poultry Exchange in annual convention assembled do hereby place themselves on record as entirely in accord with the principle of egg grading as required by the regulations and urge the department to rigidly enforce same both as regards class and grade.

Since it is only the minor detail of an infinitesimal fractional part of one article that the hon. member for South Wellington (Mr. Guthrie) differs from me on, we are not so far apart as regards the principle and soundness of grading generally. How the hon. gentleman can drag this question into the limelight and propose a vote of want of confidence in the government, and at the same time have a desire to secure a reform, is really past my understanding. Possibly he will enlighten us at some future time. Let me read the following in reference to a meeting held at Waterloo:

At a meeting of the Waterloo retail grocers held in the council chambers, last night, (April 9th, 1926) the following resolution was passed, unanimously:

"That this meeting of the Waterloo grocers and egg dealers, wishing to strengthen the hands of the