

The Agent-General for South Australia informs me that the estimated number of poultry produced in that Colony is 1,500,000, but the value is not stated.

It will be seen from the above that the statistics are most incomplete, and few deductions can be made therefrom. It would, perhaps, be a guide if we knew the respective number of fowls in the different countries, for much more information can be obtained in that direction. Several countries make a census of their stock of poultry but I did not set out to attempt an enumeration on these lines. I am not in a position to give the respective figures in anything like a complete manner. However, such as are available are given below:

NUMBER OF FOWLS IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES									
Year.	Fowls.	Ducks.	Geese.	Turkeys.	Totals.	Year.	Fowls.	Ducks.	Geese.
1885	12,401,533	2,201,901	885,310	473,583	15,963,533	1903	12,876,808	2,939,105	1,714,335
1905	11,555,332	889,413	187,929	58,245	12,690,919	1905	55,395,837	2,467,043	6,239,126
1906	4,934,942	432,858	34,498	11,321	5,413,619	1906	1,636,543	9,033	7,455
1907	1,636,543	9,033	7,455	3,671	1,655,702				

It may surprise those who have not studied this question to learn that the last returns available for Great Britain was published more than twenty years ago. Poultry are not included in the agricultural returns of Britain, although they are in those of Ireland. Considering the enormous developments in poultry-keeping in this country since 1885, the above figures are altogether misleading, and should, in respect to ordinary fowls, be increased by fifty per cent., at least, which would bring up the total to nearly twenty-four millions.

When we come to the export trade of various countries, we are on surer ground, although I had hoped to have made the returns much more complete, but replies have not been received from several countries. Have been able, by courtesy of representatives of our Colonies, and the Consuls General of foreign countries in London, and by British Consuls abroad, to give the actual figures of exports to Great Britain. Our trade and navigation returns credit the last country through which produce passes at that from which the supplies are received. For instance, according to returns supplied to me by the Board of Agriculture, but not yet published, in 1906 we received only 1,000 eggs from Italy, whereas we actually received something like 150,000,000. These credited to Belgium. On the other hand, Germany is shown as sending us eggs to the value of £257,095, whereas the actual imports from that country were in value £4,500. The great bulk of the stated German supplies come from South Russia and Austro-Hungary.

EXPORT TRADES OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

Country.	Year.	Total export values in Eggs.	Total export values in Poultry.	Total values eggs and poultry exported.
Europe—				
United Kingdom	1906	3,760,466	28,938	3,789,404
Austria	1906	472,716	620,415	1,093,131
Belgium	1905	364,507	35,153	399,660
Bulgaria	1905	1,368,062	1,368,062	2,736,124
Denmark	1905	559,000	598,300	1,157,300
France	1906	67,700	61,480	129,180
Germany	1906	2,960,000	2,573,642	5,533,642
Hungary	1905	2,253,710	547,253	2,800,963
Italy	1905	150,000	150,000	300,000
Netherlands	1906	60,491	60,491	120,982
Portugal	1906	5,615,200	300,000	5,915,200
Russia	1903	320,358	76,097	396,455
Servia	1905	10,035	10,035	20,070
Spain	1906	54,783	54,783	109,566
Sweden	1906	9,200	9,200	18,400
Turkey	1906	43,910	43,910	87,820
Africa—				
Cape Colony	1906	108,815	108,815	217,630
Egypt	1906	244,648	244,648	489,296
Morocco	1906	148,505	13,764	162,269
America—				
Canada	1905	216,385	291,042	507,427
United States	1906	121,000	6,662	127,662
Australia—				
South Australia	1906	268	268	536
New Zealand	1906	18,026,228	4,841,278	22,867,506
European countries		406,745	628	407,373
African Countries		364,890	304,806	669,696
American countries		121,268	6,662	127,930
Australian countries		£18,919,131	£5,153,374	£24,072,505

Probably from these figures some faint notion may be obtained as to the world's production in eggs and poultry, though it is a pure estimate, and one which it would be impossible to prove. Still, it is desirable to make the attempt, and I submit the following table for what it is worth, taking into account the low values in many countries, and inclusive of home consumption:

ESTIMATED VALUE OF EGG AND POULTRY PRODUCTION.		
Europe	£75,000,000	
Asia	75,000,000	
Africa	5,000,000	
America (on 1905 basis)	1,500,000	
Australia and New Zealand	115,000,000	
	1,500,000	
	£198,000,000	

Preserving Eggs for Winter.

The North Dakota Experiment Station has been conducting a series of experiments in preserving eggs and in recommending the water-glass treatment as the best tried, they give the following account of the results obtained and the way to put down eggs in the solution made with the substance:

"After experiments made with solutions of various strength and under varying conditions, we found that an 8 to 10 per cent. solution of water-glass would preserve eggs very effectually, so that at the end of eight months eggs that were preserved during the first part of the summer appeared to be perfectly fresh. In most packed eggs after a little time the yolks settle to one side and the eggs are then inferior in quality. In boiling eggs preserved for eight months in water-glass the yolk retained its normal position in the egg, and in taste they were not to be distinguished from fresh, unpacked store eggs. Again, most packed eggs do not beat up well for cake-making or for frosting, while eggs from a solution of water-glass seemed quite equal to the average fresh store eggs of the market. It should be borne in mind that in these experiments only fresh eggs were used for preserving; no egg more than four days old. Eggs that have already become stale cannot be successfully preserved by this or any other known method so as to come out fresh.

"Water-glass (sodium silicate) is a very cheap product that can usually be procured at any drug store at fifty cents per gallon, and one gallon will make enough solution to preserve fifty dozen of eggs; so that the cost of material for this method would only be about one cent per dozen. Water-glass is sodium and potassium silicate, sodium silicate being usually the cheaper. In its use the following precautions are necessary:

"First—The eggs to be put down must be fresh. A few stale eggs will soon injure the entire lot.

"Second—A good grade of water-glass must be used. Some of the cheap water-glass contains so much of free uncombined alkali that the eggs preserved in such solution become watery and acquire a bad flavor. We prefer water-glass in the form of a heavy white jelly, which flows like heavy cold molasses. Of this grade of water-glass somewhat less is needed than when the thinner product is employed. The dry powder water-glass has not, as a general rule, dissolved fully in hot water, and for that reason has not proved as satisfactory as the first named product.

"Third—Galvanized iron vessels, crocks, jars, etc., may be used to preserve the eggs. Wooden kegs of good quality are satisfactory, but these must be thoroughly sweetened by scalding with boiling water. There have been a few complaints that barrels have not been entirely satisfactory, as the water-glass dissolved some product which deposited on the eggs. This may have been due to the presence of glue used as sizing for the barrel. When the barrels have such coating it might be well to char the inside by placing in them a few shavings saturated with kerosene

oil and then throwing in a lighted paper. The barrels well burned and then thoroughly washed should be free from any glue-like products.

"For those who may desire to test the method, we give the following directions:

"Use pure water that has been thoroughly boiled and then cooled. To each ten quarts of water add one quart, or slightly less, of water-glass. When the heavy jelly-like solution of water-glass will be ample.

"The solution may be prepared, placed in the jar, and the fresh eggs added from time to time until the jar is filled, but be sure that there is fully two inches of water-glass solution to cover the eggs.

"Keep the eggs in a cool, dark place, and well covered to prevent evaporation. A cool cellar is a good place in which to keep the eggs.

"If the eggs are kept in too warm a place the silicate is deposited, and the eggs are not properly protected. Do not wash the eggs before packing, for by doing so you injure the keeping quality, probably by dissolving the mucilaginous coating on the outside of the shell.

"For packing use only perfectly fresh eggs, for stale eggs will not be saved and may prove harmful to the others.

"All packed eggs contain a little gas, and in boiling such eggs they will crack. This may be prevented by making a little pinhole in the blunt end of the egg. To do this, hold the egg in the hand, place the point of a pin against the shell of the egg at the blunt end and give the pin a quick, sharp blow, just enough to drive the pin through the shell without injury to the egg."

FIELD NOTES

Serious Crop Shortage in Ontario.

If the statement of President McEwing of the Farmers Association of Ontario is correct, the farmers of that province will have \$80,000,000 less to spend for the necessities and comforts of life for themselves and their families this year than they had last. The season which is drawing to a close in the East is one of the most extraordinary ever experienced, there. A spring of unusual lateness was followed in a good many districts by drought. A blight affected the oat crop and reduced the yield a quarter or a third. Fifty per cent of the fall wheat crop was ruined last winter and plowed up. From information of unquestioned reliability there seems no doubt but that the hay, grain, and root crop of Ontario will be at least one third less than the average crop for the past eight or ten years. This means that there will be less bacon, beef, mutton, butter and cheese. The shortage in the hay crop is also a matter of grave concern in many districts where the problem of providing sufficient food for the live stock during the winter months must now be immediately faced. Hay, straw, grain feed of every kind has advanced in prices in some instances as much as forty per cent., and it is not procurable at any price. There is no doubt but that large numbers of the cattle ordinarily fed during the winter months will this year be sacrificed before stall feeding begins. This will make a glut of butchers' cattle in the local markets with correspondingly reduced prices.

Lloydminster Show Postponed.

Owing to the lateness of the season the Agricultural Show of the above society has been postponed from September 19th to October 17th. Entries close October 14th.

The Grain Dealers' Estimate.

The estimate of the Northwestern Grain Dealers Association of a total yield of eighty-two million bushels of wheat is significant for one thing, and that is the object for which it appears to have been made. That the grain dealers who toured the country and viewed the crop from a car window could form very little opinion of the total yield they readily admitted themselves when they returned. A crop expert could tell little of the prospects from such a survey. But apparently fearing that the public, including the producers, should insist upon keeping the price up by continuous buying orders upon the option market and by holding back actual grain that element of the dealers' association who are interested in getting wheat cheap made their estimate. After such a season of adversity, if we reap a harvest of eighty-two million bushels, the laugh will be on the public as a whole for no one has expected more than seventy-five per cent. of last year's total, and despite the estimates of all and sundry the greater part of the public refuse to believe believeit will exceed the popular expectation.

Western Notes.

The large tracts which have for years been used merely as a grazing ground for herds of stock are yearly becoming absorbed by the pushful grain farmers, either in large blocks or, as is more common, in smaller holdings. Another instance of this is Mr. Whipple's ranch of about 1,500 acres near MacLeod. For many years it has been one of the show places of the district and, though it has changed