

The Co-operative Movement in Nova Scotia.

The history of co-operation in the packing and disposal of fruit in this Province has been much the same as in other Provinces. The necessity has arisen from the fact that the producer gets too small a percentage of the consumer's price.

In Nova Scotia, however, fruit has never been handled with as little reference or profit to the growers as in some parts of Ontario. As I understand the situation in the latter Province, a great deal of the fruit is or has been sold tree-run, or by the lump, so much being given for the fruit on an orchard, the buyer or speculator doing the picking, packing, etc.

This would be considered an evil, or, rather, a crop of evils, which has not arisen to any extent in Nova Scotia. Another rumored evil in Ontario, which has not been very successfully tried in our Province, is the understanding supposed to exist among different buyers to each take a certain territory to himself, leaving the producer practically without the benefits of competition.

This is simply to show that the necessity of co-operation in Nova Scotia, while present, has not been as apparent to the ordinary producer as elsewhere. As a result of the competition among shippers and buyers, Nova Scotians have averaged through the years rather larger prices than in the sister Province. The commercial bond between these shippers has been growing stronger, however, and the situation worse for the farmer, until, in this year of lean crops, the wolves on both sides of the Atlantic have, in their hunger for trade, lost some of their fellowship, with the result of good prices to the producer.

HISTORY OF THE MOVEMENT.

In 1906 a few farmers in the western end of Annapolis Valley tried to co-operate in shipping apples. They lacked the business enterprise to form a joint-stock company, and sought to hold the organization together by signatures to a paper promising to ship a certain number of apples through the association. The looseness of the organization killed it. The speculators jumped on it, and, by prevarication, misrepresentation and ridicule, scattered its members. To Berwick, which, by the way, exported 85,000 barrels of apples in 1909, or about one-eighth of the export from the whole Province, belongs the honor of starting successful co-operation. The Berwick orchardists felt that they might as well have the 75 cents to \$1.00 per barrel for their own use, which had been lining the pockets of middlemen, whose sole interest in the producer was to use him as a stepping-stone to wealth. Feeling that a joint-stock company was too exacting in its demands, and that a simple agreement amongst themselves was too loose for success, an act was produced in the Local House "To facilitate the incorporation of Farmers' Fruit, Produce and Warehouse Associations."

Since this act is the basis of organization of all the associations which have been successful, I will give a summary of its principal clauses:

1. Five or more persons may form a company to buy, sell or deal in fruit and farm produce, or to operate warehouses, by subscribing to a memo of Association provided for the purpose, witnessed before a Justice of the Peace.
3. This Memorandum of Association shall be registered by the Registrar of Joint-stock Companies, who shall certify that the company is incorporated.
7. The capital stock of any such company shall not be less than five hundred dollars, one-half of which must be subscribed.
8. The directorate shall consist of from three to seven persons, the subscribers being directors until others are appointed.
9. Election of directors annually.
10. Each shareholder shall have one vote at all meetings for each share held by him, all questions being determined by a majority of voters.
12. Officers shall be appointed by the directors.
14. The company shall have power to make, amend or repeal any by-laws not contrary to the provisions of the act, and shall send notice of such changes to the registrar.
15. Any shareholder's stock may be cancelled by the directors on neglect to pay any calls payable upon his shares.
16. A shareholder shall only be personally liable to the extent of the value of his shares.
17. No fee for incorporation or annual registration fee shall be payable by any company incorporated under this act.

The last clause is the most important from a point of success, since the farmer hates to put out money for the privilege of forming a company. If the ordinary farmer can join a company for nothing, with no immediate likelihood of having to pay out cash, he is more willing to join than where there were initial expenditure. In the operation of these companies, very little or no actual cost is advanced. Warehouses are rented or built, and part principal, as well as all running expenses, are taken pro rata from the proceeds of sale of fruit. Each subscriber puts in apples as they come from the trees. They are sorted into Fancy, No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, and

culls, and sold or otherwise disposed of. From the total amount received is deducted cost of packing and his proportion of all other expenses, and the net proceeds handed to him.

Thus, each shareholder's apples are handled to the best advantage by intelligent, practiced packers, without any worrying to himself. Each year the expenses are met, and the capital account for warehouse, etc., is gradually reduced, without being felt by the producer.

In ordinary years, only Fancy, No. 1 and No. 2 are exported, the remainder going to the evaporator or cider mill. This year, however, good prices have been realized for No. 3's.

Following are some prices netted to the growers by the association at Berwick this year:

	Fancy.	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.
Gravensteins	\$3.75	\$3.39	\$2.25	\$1.33
Emperors		2.73	2.00	1.22
Wolf River	3.13	2.69	1.89	1.32
Kings	4.18	3.03	2.79	1.78
Blenheims	3.58	2.84	2.44	1.40

These are for the early apples. As high as \$5.00 per barrel has been netted for Golden Russets and Spies, and later varieties.

The companies subscribe from five to ten thousand dollars, and pay 10-per-cent. calls yearly on capital account.

At Berwick, each member subscribed \$500, and they have been paying 5-per-cent. calls yearly out of the sales proceeds. Here they have built a warehouse costing \$3,000, and an evaporator costing \$1,600.

A central organization is being organized to combine the operations of all the companies for the strengthening of the movement and getting better rates and prices. The following associations are in operation at present: Berwick, Kingston, Round Hill, Port Williams, Perea, Aylesford, Lawrencetown, Sheffield Mills, Waterville, Middleton.

The factors necessary to a successful association are a good manager who has the confidence of the shareholders; confidence in the organization, doing away with all petty jealousies; each member must feel personally responsible for the success of the association, and work toward that end.

R. J. MESSENGER.

Although one of the coarser vegetables, cabbage finds a place in the home garden, as well as in the market garden and the truck farm, and in some sections of the United States it is extensively grown as a farm crop. No adequate estimate, however, can be placed on the value of this crop, as it fluctuates very decidedly from year to year, both in acreage and price; but the output is large; the three States of New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, which outrank all others, grow commercially about 50,000 acres of this vegetable, either as a spring or autumn crop, in addition to the home-garden supply which was consumed at home.

POULTRY.

Decomposition in Drawn and Undrawn Market Poultry.

The results of the investigations into the comparative rate of decomposition of drawn and undrawn market poultry, made by the United States Department of Agriculture during the season 1909-1910, have just been published in Chemistry Circular 70. The conditions of the experiment were strictly commercial, as the fowls were killed and dressed by the regular employees of a poultry-packing house; were shipped in the usual one-doxen-to-the-box package in a car lot of dressed poultry; were received by a wholesaler and handled with his stock, and went to the retailer when he purchased fowls from the same car lot, remaining in his shop for the period which the market happened to require for their sale.

The shipments extended over a period of six months from January to June, inclusive, and the haul was about 1,700 miles, requiring on the average of 7½ days. The birds were mature hens, large, and fairly fat, and the method of killing was by bleeding through the mouth and puncturing the brain through the skull, just below the eye. The carcasses were dressed according to methods known, respectively, as "full drawn," "wire drawn," "Boston drawn," and some are undrawn, all being dry-picked, and the evisceration was conducted with sufficient care to render washing unnecessary.

The routine of dressing, packing and shipping, and general handling, in these experiments, is far above the average. In fact, if all market poultry should be handled so well, the problem of decay would become insignificant.

The investigations, which are described in detail in the pamphlet, demonstrate (1) undrawn poultry decomposes more slowly than does poultry which has been either wholly or partly eviscerated; (2) "full drawn" poultry, completely eviscerated, with head and feet removed, decomposes the most rapidly; (3) "Boston drawn" and "wire drawn" stand midway between the un-

drawn and "full drawn" in speed of decomposition, the "wire drawn," which is most like the undrawn, being usually the better; and (4) that these deductions apply to dry-picked, dry-chilled, dry-packed, unwashed fowls, which have been marketed with what would be called promptness.

The effect of different methods of dressing, in case of delayed marketing, is now under investigation.

THE FARM BULLETIN.

Glad He Stayed on the Farm.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Having read in your issue of March 30th, re "Farming Without Wages," and also having re-read "The Boy on the Farm—Farm vs. Railroad Life," in your issue of March 16th, I am going to attempt to offer some comment upon the subject therein discussed, as "Dugald," the writer of the latter, requests.

Both of these able writers have, like myself, seen the day when they became dissatisfied with farm surroundings, and sought, or would seek, something preferable. Both writers seem to have been touched by the "get-rich-quick" epidemic, and even at this late date seem to be looking in at the wrong end of the telescope.

There seems to be a tendency for the young people to wish to leave the farm. This subject has been discussed through these valuable columns by many competent writers, so I will not dare to offer any suggestions at the present. However, as I read these two articles, something seems to strike me as being seriously wrong with both illustrations offered.

In the first letter, it would appear as though "Farmer's Son" had placed a very improper valuation upon his present worth. He states that he is the only son on a farm of 140 acres of more than ordinary value; yet he claims to be worth only \$800, minus his four years' expenses. It seems to me as though nothing but the lack of proper relationship between father and son prevents "Farmer's Son" from being an equal shareholder with his father. This, at the lowest estimation, would be \$4,000.

The illustration given by "Dugald" is somewhat similar, with the exception that the young man, who is a few years older, is enjoying the company of a sweetheart; but, for some cause unknown has neglected asking his father about his future plans. Perhaps the father, like the son, is somewhat dilatory about speaking on this all-important subject. In this case I claim the boy is more at fault than the father, as it would seem to me that a young man at this age should ask for some understanding. I do not believe the Great West would have any influence over this young man, who does not seem to know, or care, whether he has any interest in his "present" home.

If either of these young men is convinced that he was not meant to be a farmer, but was called to control the throttle of one of the great iron horses that have done and are doing so much for the welfare of our fair country, he should not lose a single moment in obtaining a position as railway engineer. One life is just as noble as the other; also, just as necessary. But what are we living for? Do our lives count for nothing until we can control a bank account of some thousands? I consider the young men in both of these illustrations have nothing but themselves to blame in not living happy and fruitful lives, and I fear lest the articles they have written will not do anything toward bettering the position of hundreds of young readers, but will prove to be seed that will spring up and yield dissatisfaction, misery and sorrow.

My position in life is, or has been, almost identical with those pictured by these two discontented young men. At the age of about 18 I became so discontented that I sat down and applied for a position in a large manufacturing establishment. Later I took the "West" fever, and in both cases nothing but the influence of the home kept me on the farm. However, being the only boy on a farm of 100 acres, I must say there never was a day that I was not an equal shareholder with my father. But had I insisted on leaving home, or in different other ways allowed my dissatisfaction to be felt in the home, I think I could only fairly consider myself heir to mere wages.

Thirty summers have come and gone, and I respect my parents and sisters more as I grow older for using their influence to keep me at home on the farm. The trouble with me was—as it is with hundreds of others—that I was living my "fool" days, and did not stop to consider the real value farm life is to a young man.

I can name instance after instance where boys have left the farm in search of those "far-away green fields," but have come home, after wasting several years of the best part of their lives—to the dear old farm. I know a young man, a High-school teacher, commanding one of the highest salaries in the Province, who told me that, if in some way he could secure his father's farm, he would give up his thousands yearly and farm.