

Mr. POPE. A very good likeness indeed—a little too much hair perhaps. It may have been taken in the younger days, before the parting was quite so definite. But I observe here a long description of wringing the chickens' necks. Great heavens, Sir, I have wrung the necks of chickens and some other things ever since I was ten years old. This is what the article says :

Kill chickens by dislocating the neck.

That is simply wringing the neck.

With the left hand—

Don't take the right hand ; if you do, the job will not be properly done.

With the left hand hold the chicken's legs and wings in one firm grasp.

If you are left-handed, you cannot do the business. No left-handed man need apply.

Place the first finger of the right hand—

Mind, not the second finger. If you have lost the first finger, you are not in it.

Place the first finger of the right hand on the right side of the neck, and the remaining fingers on the left side. Grasp the head in the hollow of the hand, with the fork of the fingers behind the head where it joins the neck. The back of the chicken being upwards, hold the legs against the left hip.

If you should put them against the right hip, the whole thing is 'bust ;' the killing of this chicken would be a failure ; the meat would not be worth sending to market ; it would be completely spoiled.

Hold the legs against the left hip and the head near the thigh or knee.

It does not give you a choice. Mr. Chairman, this is interesting to you as a physician, to know the proper way to kill a chicken.

Bend the head backward as far as possible, and at the same time stretch the neck, and when it is dislocated, immediately pull the head.

If you don't the chicken will wake up ; you must not give it a second. It says immediately ; the instructions are specific ; the word should be underlined.

Immediately pull the head to you one and a-half inches from the neck.

If you pull it more than 1½ inches, the whole job is incomplete.

Hold the wings firmly—

This is an important matter, that you must hold the wings of chickens at all times with a firm grasp.

Hold the wings firmly after killing—

Even after the chicken is dead, you must not let go ; it is dangerous to let go of the wings—

—and allow the chicken's head to hang down so that the blood can collect in the neck. The head is attached to the body simply by the skin of the neck.

That is, you stretch it 1½ inches, hang on to the wings after the chicken is dead, and

let its head drop down. What a cruel act, Mr. Chairman, towards this beautiful bird who but a few moments before was crowing around the barnyard, so proud of himself that you might almost think he was the Minister of Agriculture. There he is, with his head hanging down after you have twisted it off. I think, Mr. Chairman, that there are farmers in this country who might possibly be able to wring a chicken's neck without these elaborate instructions contained in this pamphlet which is issued by the Department of Agriculture.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Well, Mr. Chairman, we will issue a new edition of the pamphlet with the annotations of the hon. gentleman. It might be more acceptable to his friends.

Mr. POPE. It is very kind of the Minister of Agriculture, who I know is very kindly disposed towards me. If you issue a new addition, just say wring the chicken's neck in the old-fashioned way, and let it go at that. The farmers will catch on, for it is very simple.

Mr. CLANCY. On what principles are these experiments carried on which result in a loss ? The first thing to convince the farmers would be that the work could be carried on privately afterwards without loss.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Whenever experiments have been carried on, there are expenditures which have nothing whatever to do with the profit or loss in the raising or fattening of chickens. Records have to be kept and a certain amount of experiments are bound to result in failure, but our failures serve as a lesson to others. Last year we tried the experiment of raising a certain number of chickens ourselves and feeding them in competition with chickens we bought. We have also been trying incubators for eggs raised from our own hens and eggs that are bought. That kind of work costs more and shows more failure than ordinary work done on purely commercial lines.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman does not throw much light on the subject. The committee must be surprised at the hon. minister stating that they tried bad methods in order to find out good ones. In other words they sow failures in order that they may reap success and spend a lot of money in that way. If the hon. gentleman has men capable of carrying on experiments, it seems to me that the best methods should be thought and none others. There is not a farmer who does not know how to raise chickens, and it is a very poor compliment to their intelligence to have men going about teaching them that work. Farmers have incubators just as well as the Experimental Farm. How many experiment stations have paid expenses, and how many are in operation ?