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FARM AND DAIRY

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POULTRY YARD

Co-operation with Poultry

Progress all along the line was reported at the annual meeting of the Poultry Producers' Association of Eastern Canada, held recently at Macdonald College, Que. In the absence of Mr. Hillhouse, the president, the secretary, Mr. Elford, read the presidential address, which, in part, was as follows:

One year has not quite passed since the Association was organized, and I think we should congratulate ourselves on the progress that has been made during that time. Farmers are generally recognized as being the slowest of any class to take up co-operation for their mutual benefit and yet we are receiving numerous communications from many sections of the country asking for information regarding this co-operation system of handling poultry products. They seem to be awake to the fact that when investigations show that there is a loss of from one-third to one-half the value of our poultry products between the producer and the consumer, it is high time that they were doing something to remedy this condition. During the past year meetings have been held where requests were most urgent, and these were interesting and encouraging. Something has been done in a practical way. Upwards of five tons of dressed chickens have been sold, all milk fed, and graded according to the standards of the Association. The price received, select, 15c; No. 1, 16c; No. 2, 14c, was most satisfactory, considering that the season's contract was made in the month of September, when the unusual high prices of this winter could hardly be foreseen.

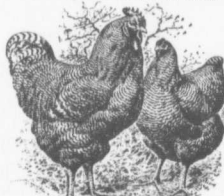
A GOOD START.

This quantity, although not large, is a good start in the right direction, and it gave complete satisfaction, every pound being paid for as graded. We have also brought the reality of our products and system of grading before the public in an educational way. Exhibits of our various grades in eggs and poultry have been sent to the Montreal and Ottawa Fat Stock and Poultry shows, where they drew considerable attention and favorable comment. We also have the satisfaction of knowing that our agricultural representatives recognize the importance of the work we are undertaking. We are particularly indebted to the Hon. S. A. Fisher, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, who has shown his kind interest and appreciation of our work by authorizing payment of all expenses which we have incurred in an educational way up to date. Also to Hon. Mr. Caron, Minister of Agriculture for Quebec, who has promised to pay \$50 towards the meeting of the Executive, and \$100 to be expended in educational work in the Province of Quebec. That these men recognize the value and need of the work is highly satisfactory to members of this Association.

PROSPECTS BRIGHT.

The prospects for the future are bright. Interest has been started. Many are asking for assistance in the marketing of eggs and poultry. Before circles can be operated, however, educational work must be done. The previous care and proper grading and handling of produce requires careful attention, and this must be one of our first works. For this purpose institute work is necessary. It is urgently needed that speakers be sent to the various communities to show the need of co-operation and the extravagance of the present system. It has been suggested that a large co-operative station be created, one that will demonstrate fully the

system under which this Association is working and one that will be an example to the other communities. One such station, run properly, might do a great deal towards convincing the producers of the advisability of co-operation and the standardization of the products. Why shouldn't our prospects be bright? An Association that aims to help both ends of the industry deserves support. We do not propose that the consumer pay more; he gets a better quality, but we would like to see more of his price go into the producers' pocket. We would introduce a more economical system of marketing and honesty on the part of those interested. Nearly all the largest wholesalers heartily support our work, our best retailers are with us, and the assistance given by some of these men, especially in Montreal and Toronto, is much appreciated. They are our partners. A system that works for the well of both ends should do much to



Barred Rocks are the most common of all breeds of chickens in this country. A breed that is so popular is worthy of respect. It is a breed of some sterling qualities. The type illustrated may well be taken as a model.

make an industry that Canada should be proud of.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The treasurer's report showed receipts of \$193, an expenditure of \$122.82, and a balance of \$70.18.

On the suggestion of Mr. Chapman a committee was appointed to revise the grades of the association. It was pointed out that the grades originally agreed upon were simply something to work on. They were not ideal, and it was decided to bring them more into conformity with those of the American continent.

The following officers were elected: Honorary president, Dr. Robertson; honorary vice-president, Prof. Gilbert; president, Mr. A. P. Hillhouse; 1st vice-president, Bro. Ligouri; 2nd vice-president, Mr. Peter White; auditor, Mr. T. F. Ward; executive, Messrs. J. H. Gunn, J. E. Morin, Prof. Graham, A. A. Armstrong, G. Robertson, J. Landry, J. Cochrane, K. Fiske, L. P. Shortall, J. W. Dunfield, E. A. Chapman, A. G. Taylor, H. E. Baird, G. R. Tylee, D. McDonald.

In concluding the meeting, the chairman alluded to the harmonious feeling which had prevailed during the year in carrying on the society.

At a subsequent meeting of the executive, Mr. F. C. Elford was appointed secretary-treasurer.

Housing, Feeding and Breeding*

F. C. Elford, Macdonald College, Que.

The poultry work at St. Anne's is carried on for two reasons, and with two objects, to breed up a laying strain by trap nesting, keeping to farm conditions as much as possible, and to show the Quebec farmers that poultry raising is well within their reach.

The houses used there, as a rule, are very simple structures—12 ft. x 8

*Part of an address delivered before the recent Poultry Institute at Guelph.

ft. floor by 6½ ft. high, simply and easily made. The hens live there in cold at 20 deg. below zero. They lay more eggs during the six cold months than at any other time.

The principle used is that it is almost impossible to freeze a healthy hen if she is kept in a dry house. In each of these 12 ft. x 8 ft. houses, 28 hens are kept. In each house are six trap nests—cleared regularly of eggs. No dropping boards are used. The droppings freeze hard and cause no inconvenience, so in winter they are cleaned out once in six weeks. Farmers should have a barrel or a box of grain for hen feed in each house, easy to get at, quick to feed and simple to reckon up. More hens stop laying in winter through under-feeding than from overfeeding.

Curtains to the houses are seldom used. Open fronts are found more satisfactory. The alfalfa hay used for flooring is changed often than if it were straw because it becomes damp more quickly. The hens eat snow instead of drinking water.

FEEDS.

Upon the principle that any man, woman or child who knows anything about feeding live stock, no carefully calculated balance ration is used. No mysterious concoction of feeds is made. The birds are fed equal parts of wheat, corn and buckwheat, though a change is shortly to be made to feed half the corn, half the buckwheat and not all the buckwheat. Flint corn is much better than dent corn. The dry mash is fed in equal parts once or twice a day and grain once a day at 3 p. m. Dry bran, beef or table scraps

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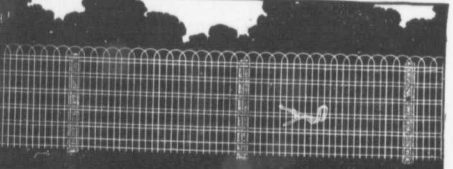
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are fed out of the hoppers and work times a week less meat.

For breeding, two cocks are generally put in each pen, though one is used if he is a remarkably fertile bird. Young cocks are preferred to older ones. They give the best results. The egg production has not gone up very much. A 200-egg bird is not wanted so much as a 175-egg bird, and if a hen won't lay in winter, she also is not wanted.

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