

## POULTRY.

## Co-operative Egg Business in Ireland.

Among the many organizations established in Ireland during the past ten years, with the object of promoting the commercial and industrial development of the Emerald Isle, one of the most prominent is the Irish Agricultural Organization Society, established in 1894 by Sir Horace Plunkett and Rev. T. A. Finlay. The method adopted by this Society has been to establish co-operative societies throughout the Island, and so successful have its operations in this line been that, since its organization eight hundred societies have been formed, embracing all such industries as dairying, agriculture, poultry-keeping, gardening, fruit-culture, home industries, etc.

Early in its career, the attention of the Society was drawn to the fact that, in addition to the home supply, the people of Great Britain import annually upwards of 6,000,000 pounds worth of eggs from foreign countries. It was also noted that Irish eggs, owing to bad handling and to being kept too long before they reached the consumer, were in poor demand. Here, then, was an opportunity for bringing about a new state of affairs, and building up a trade which might become at once lucrative and constant. The Society immediately bent every effort to secure this result, and, by effecting a better system of handling, and educating the people along "poultry lines," have been so successful that Irish eggs, instead of being a matter of contempt—"something to sniff at"—are now much sought after, and have attained a wide market.

An idea of the method adopted by these societies may be derived from a description of the Dervock Poultry Society, which may be taken as typical. This Society was established near Ballymoney, Co. Antrim, in October, 1901, with a membership of 500, and a paid-up capital of £250. Its membership has now increased to 700, and its paid-up capital to £350, the nominal capital being £700. In order that everyone in the locality might become a member, the value of each share was placed at the low sum of five shillings. The taking of one share constituted one member of the Society, the scale being one share to be taken for every twenty-five hens kept, and each member being liable only for the amount of his share or shares.

The Society is governed by a committee of ten, elected by the members, each member having but one vote, no matter how many shares he holds. Subject to the committee, there is a paid manager, a staff consisting of four boxmakers and egg-packers, and four collectors. During the busy season before Christmas, of course, this staff has to be increased. The "headquarters" of the Society consisted originally of a few old buildings, which were re-fitted, and now do duty as office, shed for boxmaking, storage and packing room, stable, etc. The plant and entire fittings, including an acetylene gas plant, which proves a great convenience in testing the eggs, a horse, van, and set of harness, amounted, in all, to something less than £78. Since the trade is done on a strictly cash basis, all eggs being paid for as soon as received, it has been found necessary to have a considerable sum on hand. This working capital has been provided partly by the paid-up share capital, and partly by a bank overdraft. All the Irish banking companies have now agreed to lend money to the poultry societies at the rate of four per cent. per annum. It has been estimated that a society could make a start and carry on a successful business on a smaller investment than £100, provided that sufficient working capital for current expenses could be obtained.

But, to return to Dervock. To the storage-rooms described above the collectors bring the eggs from their district, which radiates to a distance of twelve miles from headquarters. For convenience, the district is divided into four parts, each collector having his own section, which he visits regularly once a week in winter, two or three times a week in summer. The collectors accept only clean, fresh eggs, all others being rejected. They buy altogether by weight, never counting the eggs. After each transaction, they record the price and weight of the eggs in duplicate docket-books, giving a slip each time to the seller of the eggs. The eggs are then carefully packed and conveyed to the packing-store, where they are taken out, weighed, tested again, and separated according to weight into several regular sizes. At Dervock, the selections are into classes weighing 13½ lbs. per 120, 15 lbs. per 120, and 17 lbs. per 120. They are sold by weight, the price of the larger grades, however, being much higher than that of the smaller ones. Incidentally, it may be said that, having found out this fact, the poultry-keepers have exerted themselves to secure larger prices, and by giving better care,

and by keeping only those strains of fowl which produce large eggs, have accomplished a marked difference in this respect. Two years ago, forty per cent weighed 13½ lbs. per 120, and there were none that reached 18 lbs. per 120. At the present time only ten per cent. weigh 13½ lbs. per 120, while ten per cent. reach the 18-lb. standard.

After separation, the eggs are packed carefully in clean, dry straw or wood-fibre, the cases are labelled, "Irish Eggs," "With Care," "This Side Up," "Keep Dry," and they are then sent directly to the various towns and cities of Great Britain. At the present time, the annual turnover in the egg department of the Dervock Society amounts to £6,000 per annum, the amount paid for 2,160,000 eggs, having an aggregate weight of nearly 180 tons.

The Dervock members are well satisfied with their co-operative society. Since its establishment they have found that they realize fully two pence per dozen above the price they used to get when they sold merely to local dealers. This increase in price has been brought about largely by the doing away of middlemen, the eggs, under the present system, being sent almost directly from the producers to the consumers. In addition, the quality has improved, the demand has increased, and poultry-keeping has become an industry productive of pride as well as profit.

## Chickens Dying.

A poultry-keeper writes: "About the middle of April I had over thirty fine Plymouth Rock chicks hatched, which have done exceedingly well, until a week ago, when I noticed a few of them hanging their wings and acting rather stupid, as if sick. Last Saturday one died, and since then two more, and several of the others have the same symptoms, and I fear I will lose them. I have been feeding them chiefly on cracked corn, corn meal, milk, and boiled potatoes. Can you tell me through the 'Advocate' what is the cause of the trouble, and how to remedy it? I have seventy younger chicks, which are all right. Is the trouble likely to affect them? They have no lice on them."

Replying to your reader, I am inclined to believe that the chickens have lice, notwithstanding that she says they have not. I would suggest that your correspondent look beneath the wings and also right on the top of the chicken's head for lice. Of course, if they have none, there is no use trying to say that the trouble is caused from this source. In case lice are found, I would suggest that the chicken be dusted slightly under the wings with any good dust powder, such as Rust's, or ordinary insect powder. Be sure to take care not to put too much on. If there are lice on the chicken's head, these can be gotten rid of by greasing the head very slightly with unsalted butter; be very careful not to put on too much, or it certainly will be fatal.

The trouble might also be caused by a lack of grit in food. On the ordinary farm, I should think there would be very little trouble in chickens getting enough grit, but there is a possibility that there would be none available, in which case I would suggest that she get some sharp sand or fine gravel, but if neither one is available, if she can get from a seedstore what we call chick-size grit, and feed a little, it might be beneficial.

The ration is rather one-sided; boiled potatoes, corn meal are more of a feed for fattening chickens than growing, but the milk is good. Could she not change the feed a little, and give them, say, half cracked corn and wheat, and milk; or if she wishes to continue the corn meal and boiled potatoes, use considerable bran and shorts, and I would suggest that under these conditions that she also give milk to drink. It is quite possible that under conditions such as we have this spring, that a cracked corn and corn meal ration might give satisfactory results, as there is an abundance of earthworms, etc., which would tend to balance the ration.

W. R. GRAHAM.

## Denmark's Egg Trade.

The egg trade in Denmark is a very flourishing one, and constitutes one of the principal sources of revenue in that kingdom, increasing from year to year. In 1900 the exports were 332 millions of eggs, representing a value of over a million sterling, which shows an increase of 50 per cent. since 1898; while in 1870 the value of the eggs exported was little more than a thousand pounds. The increase in the production, as well as the high prices realized abroad, is due to the co-operative societies for the sale of eggs, principally to the Danish Society for the export of eggs, founded in 1895, which numbered in 1901 thirty thousand members, and exported more than sixty millions of eggs. The principle of this society is to export only eggs that are guaranteed fresh, each egg destined for export being marked with the number of the member, and bearing the date of laying. Any member who commits a fraud is severely punished. In this way the society has gained a very good reputation, so that the Danish eggs are sometimes sold in England for a higher price than the English eggs.—[Ex.

## GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

## Planting Evergreens.

A very large proportion of all the evergreens that are transplanted by amateurs in the business die the first summer, simply because they were not rightly handled while the roots were out of the ground. We planted evergreens every week during the growing season last year, and made them live and grow as well in June as we did in April. However, the greatest care must be exercised, when the weather is hot and dry, to save them. The man who plants an evergreen must continually bear in mind that he is handling a tree in full leaf, which will rapidly lose its moisture through the leaves if it is exposed to sun or wind. Again, remember, the sap of an evergreen is unlike that of other trees in this respect: it has in solution a large proportion of pitch, which becomes solid and insoluble in both root and branch very soon when the tree is out of the ground and exposed to the air, hence the roots should be kept in mud or water, and the tops covered to furnish sun protection. We succeed best with transplanting when the weather is damp and the sun obscured with clouds.

Where it is possible to use a plow, we prefer to use it in planting all of the large trees, by opening wide and deep dead furrows, in the bottom of which the roots are well spread, and the soil worked amongst them by moving the tree "churn dasher fashion," while an assistant shovels in the mellow surface soil. This should be so firmly packed about the roots that it would be quite impossible to pull up the tree by hand after the operation is completed. Don't fill the furrow at once with the plow, but do so gradually during the summer, by using a cultivator when needed to destroy weeds and maintain the earth mulch.

Our experience in handling thousands of evergreens every year, leads us to believe that cultivation is necessary for two or three years after planting into the permanent homes. Mulching may be substituted with fairly good results, but the shape and growth of the trees are never entirely satisfactory if they are not cultivated until well rooted and a good vigorous growth commenced. Don't use heating barnyard manures about evergreens for mulch, because it is quite sure to kill their root and branch. Keep the roots of the evergreens wet, or covered with earth, every minute they are out of the ground, and you can make them live through the operation of transplanting with very few failures. Don't attempt to handle them when the sun shines and the wind blows, but rather select the wet, cloudy days or nights for such work, when success is quite sure to follow rather than disappointment.—[N. W. Agriculturist.

## British Columbia Fruit.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF FRUIT CANNERY IS ASSURED.

The growing commercial importance of the fruit industry of British Columbia is evidenced by the increased shipments by freight and express, as the following figures show: There were carried by the C. P. R. during 1902, 1,469 tons of fruit, while in 1903, 1,987 tons were carried; an increase of 35 per cent. The Dominion Express Co. carried in 1897, 70 tons of fruit; in 1901, 378 tons; in 1902, 483 tons; in 1903, over 676 tons. The establishment of a fruit cannery in New Westminster is assured, which will employ forty to fifty hands during the season. This will give growers a market for their surplus fruit.

At the present time British Columbia fruit practically rules the market as far east as Calgary. The markets of the Northwest, though vast and valuable, are very scattered; Winnipeg is the great wholesale center, and is of such importance that it enters into the calculations of fruit-growers all over the continent, consequently the competition there is keen. Orders are being received from Australia, Hawaii, China and Japan, and efforts were made last fall to get a foothold in Britain. On Oct. 16th last, Messrs. Stirling and Pitcairn, of Kelowna, shipped the first carload of British Columbia apples, consisting of Spies, Baldwins, Ontarios and Canada Reds, to the British market. They arrived in Glasgow on November 9th, in first-class condition, and were sold at an average price of about 6s. per box, while Eastern Canada apples were selling in the same place at about one dollar per barrel less, figuring three and one-half boxes to the barrel. However, when the extra freight charges to Montreal were deducted, the net returns were hardly satisfactory. Enquiries are now being received from other firms who saw the British Columbia fruit and learned that it gave first-class satisfaction, so that it is thought that if more and larger shipments were sent forward, better prices would be realized.—[Columbian.

## Two Garden Insects.

Mrs. Silas Sullivan writes asking what will kill the green grub that attacks cabbages; also the white maggot that works at the root of onions. Ans.—For the green cabbage worm use pyrethrum powder, which is deadly to insects, but quite harmless to human beings who may eat the vegetable. Mix the powder with two or three times its own bulk of flour, and keep in a tightly-covered jar for twenty-four hours, then dust on the plants. Hot water, which must not, of course, be hot enough to scald the leaves, may also be used with good effect upon these worms. . . . The onion maggot