

Inter-department Correspondence



PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR;  
SIR ARTHUR W. CURRIE, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

FROM  
THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR,  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,  
MONTREAL.

March 15th,  
1933.

Professor W. A. Maw,  
The Department of Poultry,  
Macdonald College P.O., P.Q.

Dear Professor Maw,

As I was leaving Macdonald College last evening, Mr. Ward handed to me a statement of Receipts and Expenditures of the Poultry Department of Macdonald College for the six years 1927-28, 1928-29, 1929-30, 1930-31, and 1931-32, 1932-33.

This statement disclosed, it is true, a reduction in expenditure each of these six years. But it also discloses a very much reduced income. Further, it discloses that the ratio of decrease in income to expenditure is alarming.

When I asked you about this decrease in income yesterday, you pointed out that owing to a desire to decrease expenses, we had decreased the flock from some 2000 birds to 1400 and then to about 1000. That seems to have been poor economy, because the ratio of receipts to expenditures had decreased from 61% in 1927-28 down to about 18% for the first eight months in 1932-33. The ratio of receipts to expenditures runs as follows:-

61%, 52%, 27-1/2%, 22%, 23%, 18-1/3%

Let us take the year 1927-28 and compare it with the year 1931-32. In the first year the expenditures were \$21,976.68 and the receipts \$13,470.19, leaving a deficit of \$8,506.49. In 1931-32 the expenditure was \$18,662.57 and the income \$4291.06, or a deficit of \$14,379.51. Where is the economy in reducing the flock, with the result that the excess of expenditure over income has increased from \$8,506.49 to \$14,379.51? Would it not have been better management and more profitable to have even increased the number of birds instead of decreasing them?

A further factor which makes this statement most unfavourable is that it shows cost of feed for livestock has not kept pace in the downward march with the decrease in the flock and the lower cost of feed prevailing in these times, as compared with six years ago.