

share of attention, and, moreover, take hold of the work of educating the people in poultry matters with energy and discretion, there is no doubt but that a great impetus would be given to the poultry industry of the province. Where one chicken, hen, duck, goose, or turkey is raised and sold to-day, twenty would be raised and sold five years from now. We have the best climate for poultry-raising in the world. We have the finest poultry market in the world open to us; and our own home market is capable of taking twenty times the supply that is now offered to it. All that is needed is that the work of education and instruction be pursued constantly, intelligently, energetically, and with the definite end in view of promoting the poultry-producing industry and developing the poultry trade to the utmost possible extent.

If this plan of reorganization be gone on with, we would earnestly recommend, therefore, that the associations go into the work of instruction most thoroughly. Just as the cheese and butter industries of the province have been magnificently

improved by the work of instruction which now for some years has been carried on by the two dairy associations and by the creamery association, so can the poultry industry be equally improved by similar methods. Let every Farmers' Institute in the country be asked to hold special meetings to discuss improved poultry methods, and ways and means for the development of the poultry trade; let visits be made by competent poultry instructors to every rural community, for the purpose of demonstrating to farmers, and to farmers' wives, and to the young people on the farm, how poultry can be produced most abundantly and most economically; in short, let the methods prevail which have made the great mass of our farmers interested in the production of butter and cheese, and it will soon follow that improved systems of poultry-keeping will be followed out on every farm in the country, and that our production of eggs and dressed poultry will be increased, as we have before stated, twentyfold.

PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF THE DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS AND THE CREAMERY ASSOCIATION.

[EDITORIAL.]

Early in December the Hon. Mr. Dryden, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, sent a circular letter to the members of the managing boards of the Dairymen's Association of Western Ontario, the Dairymen's Association of Eastern Ontario, and the Ontario Creameries' Association. This letter was for the purpose of bringing under the notice of the members of these associations a plan which the Minister for some time has had at heart, for the amalgamation of these three associations into what the Minister very appropriately calls "one grand dairymen's association." The details of the plan are very clearly outlined in the Minister's letter. Briefly, it implies that *in effect* there shall be one dairy association for the whole of Ontario; but that this association shall be divided into two parts, an eastern and a western, and that each association shall be governed by a board; but also that for purposes common to all sections of the country these two boards shall form one joint board, and that in the service of this joint board there shall be one secretary or chief executive officer, who shall devote his whole time to the work of the joint board, and of the separate boards, and of the dairy interests of the province as a whole. In this way it is felt, as the

Minister says in his letter, that "greater consolidation, greater unity, and greater uniformity of results" will be secured. We hereunder print the Minister's letter in full:

Toronto, Nov. 16th, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—Nearly five years ago, in an address delivered by me at the eighth annual convention of the Creameries' Association, held in the town of Harriston, I used the following language, as reported in the record of that meeting:

"There cannot be any warfare between the manufacturers of cheese and butter; in fact, they are getting closer together every year and every month of the year, and by and by we shall have them overlapping each other's work, the cheesemen making butter and the buttermakers making cheese. When this is being accomplished all over the country, there should be a joining together of the two. When the iron is hot, I should like to weld them together. Then we shall have one grand dairymen's association."

I have never abandoned this expectation, nor doubted its desirability, and it appears to me that the present time is opportune for its accomplishment.

An increasing number of cheese factories are being utilized in winter for the manufacture of butter. I estimate that one hundred creameries have been in operation in 1896 during the summer months. These will no doubt continue to operate throughout the winter. From the best in-