

them \$500,000 to feed, and bring them absolutely nothing. Replace these males with as many young hens, and they will, if properly handled, pay for their feed and bring in a profit each. Here, then, is half a million dollars for the farmers where now they lose annually that amount, or, in other words, the farmers of Ontario are out of pocket at least one million dollars annually through keeping too many male birds. You should always select a pure-bred male. When it is time to mate up your breeding-pen, select 10 or 12 of your choicest females, and put them in a pen for the purpose with the male. It will pay you to have an outside run to this pen. Take your eggs for hatching from this pen. If it is the second season for the male, get rid of him just as soon as you have saved enough eggs. Be very careful not to in-breed. It destroys the egg production of your hens, and it destroys their vitality and size. By selecting your breeding birds in this way, you can choose not only the largest and finest, but the best layers, especially if you choose yearlings, from which you are likely to obtain the strongest chicks. By breeding thus, you will add materially to the value of your fowls year by year. The number of eggs your hens will lay will greatly increase, and instead of the miserable dressed poultry we too often see on our markets, and that weigh not more than four or five pounds per pair, we will see fine, plump birds that dress five and six pounds each, and sell for twice as much, while they cost the farmer very little more to raise. The demand for perfectly fresh eggs and for plump, tender fowls will never cease. They will always command good prices.

On Christmas day a farmer visited my yards, who has built an excellent poultry house, intending to raise fowls and eggs for the market in large numbers. He said that it does not pay him to sell wheat at the present prices, and thinks he can make more out of it by feeding it to fowls. I have no doubt that, with careful management, it will pay him well, but see how he begins. He has bought birds of six or seven varieties. Is it to be expected that a farmer without any experience can pay out money for so many varieties and make it pay? Is it not nonsense for a man who wishes to keep hens for eggs only to buy Minorcas, Leghorns and Red Caps to begin with? Where is the man who will say which of these great laying varieties will lay most eggs? Who will say which is the best general purpose fowl? It is not necessary, then, for one who wishes a general purpose bird to begin with four or five varieties. No! Visit poultry shows and choose one variety of either great layers, or general purpose birds, or one of each. Choose the variety you like best. If you don't know which you like best, wait until you do know. It would never have done if you had

liked three or four girls best when you made up your mind to get married, neither will it do here.

In conclusion, I would recommend that lectures on poultry be given at Farmers' Institutes. It is largely owing to the lectures in dairying at these meetings that the value of the cheese product of Ontario has increased from \$5,500,000 in 1883 to \$9,000,000 in 1892, or almost double, to say nothing of increase in value and quality of butter produced. I am convinced that suitable lectures on poultry would be of at least as much benefit to our farmers. I know that a chicken is considered by a great many as of no consequence, and that to be a chicken-breeder is thought a very low calling, but I tell you, gentlemen, that the time has come when the farmers of Ontario must look for their incomes to every available source if they are going to thrive. Raise the poultry on your farms to the same standard of excellence as your other stock; give them the same attention and intelligent care you do your butter and cheese-making and your fine stock, and you will add millions to the wealth of this province, and thousands of dollars annually to the incomes of our farmers.

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### THE CANADIAN POULTRY INDUSTRY.

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BY W. R. PLUM, NEW HAMBURG.

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**I** THANK the Association for the honor conferred in asking me to address this meeting, though I cannot say anything on the practical side of the subject that would be of any value to you or that any of the gentlemen here present do not already know. I am not directly interested in the poultry industry, but as a Canadian to the manor born I can speak with pride and satisfaction of its importance and value to the people of Canada and of its rapid development during the past twenty years. In those twenty years it has increased beyond our most sanguine expectations, and become an important factor in the trade and commerce of this country, and notwithstanding its extension it is capable, we believe, of reaching proportions tenfold greater than its present volume. The Provincial Government, fully alive to the value of the trade to this Province has wisely, we think, materially assisted in promoting its expansion by an annual grant of \$900 a year to this Association. This action on the part of the Government, I know, will be commended by all present, as they are assisting in fostering and building up an industry, the surplus of which realizes to the people of Canada no less than between one and two millions of dollars annually.