

to the Dominion Government to be incorporated and absorbed into the vast Dominion Experimental Farms System. To completely waive the rights of the Province to a station of this kind would, we believe, be a very serious mistake, but we believe also that the time has now arrived when the work of plant improvement, or breeding, should be handed over to the Federal Department of Agriculture. There are three principal reasons for this as we view the matter. The first arises out of the fact that the production of new and better varieties is a matter of distinctly national import and if results are to be secured for the country as a whole in the most economical manner, the work should be undertaken by that institution which has the national good for its object. This is distinctly the field of the Federal Government and the system of Dominion Experimental Farms is the logical system to which should be attached all work in plant improvement, or breeding, which has for its object the creation of new and better varieties by the exercise of scientific principles. The second reason is the fact that the work of plant breeding is work that though highly necessary, is only potentially rather than actually, profitable to the grower. The availability of a much improved variety of peaches means nothing to the commercial grower until he plants it, from which time the art of the grower carries forward the fundamental work of the scientist. The average grower seems to look upon basic scientific work such as this as something which is probably necessary, but does not concern him very much. The more progressive grower will often ask that such work be done, but he does not concern himself with the way it is done. What he wants is results on all the phases of his business as fast as they can be obtained, and this brings us to the third reason which is partly political although not so in a partisan way. The smaller the political organization the more closely do the voters inquire into its affairs. As we get away from the school section and the township and reach provincial and federal affairs we lose more of the detail at each stage. The business gets bigger and we do not inquire into it so closely, with the result that the men who are doing the work of the Dominion experience less interference than do those doing the work of the Province. For this reason plant breeding should be placed as far away from the grower as possible. The wisest plan would seem to be to place this work in the hands of the Government from whom the least amount of detailed explanation will be expected. The reason for this is not because the work amounts to so little, but because it amounts to so much. It will be easier to get \$50,000 from the Dominion for this work than it would be to get \$10,000 from the Province, because the results will only come when they arrive and no man knoweth the hour.

Practically all purely research work in Horticulture might, we believe, be also undertaken by the Dominion for the same reasons. It is true that at present they would not have a great deal to take over, but there is available a very wide selection of abstract problems that, if solved, would greatly benefit the grower, the Province and the Dominion. Cultural work on the other hand, and all other work directly connected with the work of production, comes decidedly within the domain of the province rather than of the Dominion as we believe this is so understood. Production problems are the ones that the growers are directly interested in and they have a right to look to the provincial authorities for their solution. We are of the opinion that all of the facilities of the Vineland Experiment Station could well be devoted to the working out of cultural and marketing problems for the grower, while, if thought desirable, a separate station for purposes of plant breeding could be purchased by the Federal Department and operated as a distinct entity from the Vineland institution, to which the growers would look for a solution of their problems.

One of the chief difficulties at the present time is the fact that the growers and the experiment station men do not know each other well enough. This is an outstanding mistake. The Director and his assistants should get out among the growers on any and every possible occasion. Similarly the growers should visit their experiment station so that if at any time they should desire to say anything about it they might have some knowledge of the facts. An extension service at the Station is badly needed and if, as we understand, it costs the Province about \$40,000 per year to carry the institution, double the results could be secured if a little more money were advanced to safeguard this investment by providing an adequate extension service. There has been good work already done at the Station that the growers do not know of. There are capable men on the Station staff whom the growers do not know and who could offer valuable assistance in many cases. The annual cost is by no means too much if the results were properly taken to the people.

## POULTRY.

### Swat the Rooster Now.

There is nothing that can now be done in the poultry yard that is nearly so important in the production of eggs for market as to "swat the rooster." After June first there should not be a single rooster running with the flock and it would be the part of wisdom to fatten and kill all but the very best of the males. One or two may be so valuable that it would not pay to kill them, but under no consideration should they be allowed to run with the hens. Infertile eggs only should be produced for market from now on and the rooster is not necessary for this. He may be indispensable during the hatching season, but afterwards and during the warm summer months when losses from bad eggs on all our markets

are severe, he becomes a distinct menace to the poultry industry. It has been estimated that seventeen per cent of all eggs reaching the wholesale markets have no commercial value, having been spoiled from one cause or another and that of this amount five per cent, is due directly to the fact that the eggs are fertile and that they contain partly developed chicks. This enormous quantity of spoiled eggs accumulates chiefly in the summer months and is a sufficient indictment of the rooster to warrant his immediate transfer to martyrdom. Remove him from interference in the production of good eggs and you remove the trouble arising from fertile eggs. The following are some of the arguments advanced by one authority in favor of infertile eggs for the market: They do not hatch; contain no germs to be developed; withstand heat; bear shipment well; are easily preserved; are slow to decay; best for cold storage; less costly than fertile eggs; male birds not required; and are produced just as abundantly as fertile eggs. The rooster in the flock from now on will do away with all these advantages.

In the summer of 1919, Canada had a poultry population amounting to 34,645,238, of which probably at least 1,000,000 were mature roosters. Assuming that we still have the same poultry population there are at present on the farms of Canada about \$1,500,000 worth of roosters that should be swatted and made to realize their market value. If left with the flock for one month they will easily cost the country a quarter of a million dollars in the feed they consume and the market eggs they will be the means of spoiling. These figures are not absolute of course, but we have been doing a little figuring and have tried to be conservative; but even the endeavor of an honest person to figure here brings to light an enormous loss. Even half this loss per month would be an enormous price to pay just to hear the rooster crow on a summer morning. Every one is now urging the other fellow to help onward a campaign for production and thrift. Thrift in the poultry yard now means swatting the rooster.

The more or less general introduction of candling has shown up these severe losses from bad eggs in the summer months and all co-operative farmers' organizations that are marketing eggs in a wholesale way are finding it absolutely necessary to candle all eggs received. The dealer who buys eggs that are not candled knows that he must sustain a loss and pays the producer accordingly; he pays a price that will meet this shrinkage. Help put a better quality of eggs on our markets and thus realize better prices. Swat the rooster now.

## FARM BULLETIN.

### Raising the Standard.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

In consequence of narrow and shortsighted Civil Service policies in relation to the recognition of capable experts in the Canadian Federal Department of Agriculture, "The Farmer's Advocate" was compelled some time ago to enter an editorial protest in order that the labors of such men might be retained. There doubtless are retrenchments for frills and political sinecures that can and ought to be ruthlessly made but when Canada and a hungry continent call loudly for an augmented output of agricultural products, it does seem folly to cripple the energies of a department that has justified itself in the past by such achievements as marquis wheat, to cite a single instance, and which gives reasonably good promise of applying continued stimulus and development at the very source of production. Canada is not alone in being afflicted by a type of administrative astigmatism in relation to pioneering in agricultural research. Through the efforts of capable experts under the United States Department of Agriculture millions of actual dollars have been saved and added to the field and animal products of that country by such means as the introduction of Egyptian cotton, Kaffir and other grain sorghums and Durham wheat, and campaigns against Bole weevil, cattle tick, hog cholera and other plagues. The whole American appropriation for strictly agricultural work is said to be not much more than one quarter the saving each year on hog cholera alone. By cutting down funds, such work for the future is crippled and many of the best men are drafted from public service into private industries. A statement of twenty-five employees who left the department in about a year and a half shows that the positions they accepted pay them on an average nearly \$3,250 each per year more than they received from the Government. The head of a market bureau with 1,318 men under him and receiving \$4,500 per year entered a position as general manager of a fruit-grower's organization at \$20,000 per year. An expert in the office of farm management drawing \$3,500 went to an outside position at \$6,000 and another receiving \$2,500 went to a harvesting implement company at \$4,500. One man in the Bureau of Chemistry receiving \$3,000 went to a trade association at \$6,000. Another left to be the Eastern Representative of a Louisiana concern at \$10,000 and a \$3,700 expert joined a commercial enterprise also at \$10,000. A box inspector at \$2,000 was engaged by a Chicago lumber company at \$4,800 and a woman expert in the chemistry bureau was given a position by a private concern in research work at \$10,000 per annum. Almost without exception these persons were loath to leave the Government service and many of them would have remained for much less increase than they received elsewhere but under existing conditions with the responsibilities to their families the difference in remuneration was so great that altruistic considerations had to give way. In the United States also thousands of persons have been abandoning the teaching profession

for the greater financial prizes offered in commercial undertaking. Now, there are reasons doubtless, why Governments or local boards of education cannot uniformly keep pace in the scale of salaries with purely moneymaking concerns, apart from the compensating permanence of employ and provisions for old age; but the day has arrived for a levelling up process and the application of some more equitable measuring stick to achievement than the dollar-accumulating gift. The world is groping towards a better ideal. Admiration of the millionaire is clearly on the wane and one has only to read the newspapers to discern as one of the signs of the times that the ethic of the Nazarene is making its way. "I am among you as one that serveth", a motto which might well be inscribed on every school blackboard in the land, over the entrance to every office and bank and factory and Legislative hall where it would shine as a reminder that there are some things more potent than "Round Robins" and strikes and dividends.

The encouragement of farming is something that deserves the commendation and active support of citizens generally. Reasons there are, as plain as the nose on a man's face, why it should be made attractive if its depleted ranks are to be adequately filled, as pointedly urged in your issue of May 6th. Though admittedly the country's fundamental industry with incidental advantages, the value of which are too readily forgotten, it has been carried on and in some respects will be under arduous conditions and with an amount of investment that merits by way of equivalent more liberal returns and greater leisure for the farm family. Governments are, therefore, in duty-bound to make conditions such as will equalize the emoluments of rural life compared with those of the town, on the principle of the whiffletree evener. As farmers we are urged to increase production. In all fairness we ask that our efforts be seconded by a corresponding growth of industrial output, else the rising price of mowers, shoes, sugar, groceries, fencing, roofing, hardware, and clothes will swallow up too great a proportion of our returns. As the man from Macedonia once said: "Come over and help us!" Nothing will do more to stabilize this country than popular and contented rural communities.

The new American Secretary of Agriculture at Washington, Edward T. Meredith, who combines a good knowledge of farming, business success and a sympathetic attitude toward labor, concedes the existence of wide and growing discontent among American farmers which is having the effect of curtailing effort and tilled acreage and increasing the grass land. Because of exceptional conditions the farmer did fairly well in 1918, but by 1919 the doubling increase of wages and of all the elements in his cost of production overlook and passed the increases in the price of farm products so that he did not make even a fair wage. Farming, observes Mr. Meredith, must be made remunerative in a way it has not been in the past, otherwise the country will face a most serious menace to its welfare. The cost of distribution must be simplified and lowered. To take out of products one half the price received for distribution is too much. It means that the farmer receives far too little of the total and the consumer pays too much. The farmer will do his share if met in a fair and co-operative spirit by the consuming public, by labor and the business world.

Middlesex Co. Ont.

ALPHA.

### St. Paul Wins King's Plate.

The King's Plate, Canada's oldest turf classic, was run at the Woodbine, Toronto, on Saturday, May 23, when St. Paul, a Gidding's entry, won by a lead of four lengths over his nearest rival.

Interest in the horse and turf, which was allowed to slumber somewhat during the war, has awakened with renewed vigor for never was such large attendance ever seen at the Woodbine on any previous occasion. Fourteen horses started in the fourth race, the King's Plate, and not until the corner was turned on to the home stretch did Romanelli, the jockey, bring St. Paul into the lead. He then finished four lengths ahead of Bugle March, with Primo coming third. Harry Giddings of Oakville, the breeder and owner of St. Paul, has had three previous successes at these classic events with the following horses: St. Bass in 1911, Hearts of Oak in 1913 and Beehive in 1914.

The Seagram entries, Gallant Kitty and Crown of Gold were heavily played favorites on Saturday last, but they finished fifth and seventh, respectively.

### Powder Factory Patrons Discuss June Price of Milk.

The association of patrons of milk powder factories in Western Ontario held a meeting in the office of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, Woodstock, on Thursday, May 20, for the purpose of discussing the price of milk for the month of June. There are fourteen local milk producers' associations interested in the milk powder market, and representatives of ten of them were present at the meeting, which was productive of much discussion. Considerable concern was expressed over the fact that the cheese market has lately been relatively more profitable as an outlet for milk than practically any market except the butter market, and it was felt that in all fairness the price for June milk should be higher than for May. At the same time there was no disposition to crowd their own market, the milk powder factories, and it was only after much discussion that it was decided to ask for a price of at least \$2.60 for 3.5 per cent. milk for the month of June. This request will be preferred through the Ontario Milk and Cream Producers' Association, and the decision was made with the complete unanimity of all present.