

APPENDIX No. 3

By Mr. Schaffner:

Q. I do not think the annual report is the best medium. The farmers do not read it. I think we should have a bulletin, or separate sheets with practical information in them?

A. We have been doing something of that kind, but I may state that much more is likely to be done in the future.

By Mr. Best:

Q. In that sheet would you show what type of house is best for the producer?

A. Yes, certainly.

By Mr. Arthurs:

Q. Could you not put in your report the prices that you are getting?

A. Yes, I may say that the figures given by Montreal retail buyers, who pay the highest prices at all seasons are given in my report of last year, 1911, I have several suggestions under my next sub-head,—‘The form of poultry development best calculated to help the farmer.’

By Mr. Sutherland:

Q. Have you made any experiments as to the effect on fowls eating worms, locusts, and so on, and the effect on the quality of the eggs?

A. Yes. We can tell the effect of different foods on the flavour of the egg. Doubtless you have experienced the difficulty in getting an egg with good flavour in buffet Pullman cars, hotels, &c. Sometimes it may be noticed that the white of an egg was inclined to be liquid. That probably was an egg from an ill-fed hen.

Q. Would you consider a hen ill-fed that was feeding on worms, locusts and beetles?

A. Not if surroundings were clean. I would not consider an egg well-flavoured that was laid by a hen that had eaten decayed animal or vegetable substances or had been drinking filthy water such as leachings from the barn yard.

SOME DIFFICULTIES.

You can now see some of the difficulties which surround the placing of a first-class article on the market. It means trouble, and again there is the difficulty of getting the farmer to put his eggs in the hands of the consumer while strictly fresh. There are also the difficulties of having the farmer keep a sufficient number of fowls well housed and cleanly fed that they will lay eggs that are well flavoured. I have made it a point to study this phase of poultry keeping for many years.

WINTER HOUSES OF DIFFERENT KINDS.

By Mr. Staples:

Q. What system is working out best, the henhouse that is kept warm, or the one that is kept cold?

A. We have a compromise system that is doing the best. It is in the shape of a house with cotton front on each side of a window which is in the centre and faces south. We have also on trial an entirely open front house called the ‘Tolman’ house. It has wire only on the front, which faces south. It is really what is called a cold house. We have had an unusually severe winter, but in that respect it was a good one for testing such a house as the latter. Only five per cent of the hens laid in the ‘Tolman’ house. Now, no house is worth anything that will not permit of a paying percentage of eggs being laid in the winter. Hens may look well, but if they do not lay eggs in a paying quantity what is the good of keeping them? In the cotton front house, seventy-five to eighty per cent of the hens were layers.

Q. You say only five per cent of the hens laid. What kind of house was it?

A. What is called the Tolman house. It has a front that is open. It might be a popular house in certain parts of the country where the climate is genial. I fancy