

A POULTRY COMMISSIONER FOR THE DOMINION.

SUCH has been the success that has attended the appointment of a Dairy Commissioner, that it is now in order to ask if the appointment of a Commissioner to look after the extensive poultry interests of the country, would not be followed by equally good results. We are of opinion that such a step on the part of the Government would meet with the hearty approval of the farmers and poultry fanciers of the Dominion. We are told by a bulletin recently issued by the Finance Department, and now appearing in these columns, that Canadian poultry and eggs of superior quality, and which arrived in excellent condition, realized the very highest prices in the London market. The same authority tells us "that a Canadian dealer recently made a shipment of turkeys to the Liverpool market which arrived in such good form that the shipper realized a handsome profit, and expresses himself confident beyond a doubt that an unlimited, steady and profitable trade can be done with England in Canadian poultry. The faults found with some of the shipment were small size of the eggs and bad packing, which resulted in low figures compared with prices received for shipments of a superior article, well packed. The aim of the Canadian shipper should be to procure the best and that of the farmer to produce the choicest.

Now a practical poultry commissioner would find among the farmers a great and undeveloped field to work in. His duties might take shape as follows:

He should meet the farmers at every possible point such as Institute meetings, and county and township fairs. Blue books containing elaborate reports may be sent out in great number, but they are read by comparatively few.

He should be able to tell them which breeds of fowls lay the largest eggs, with the view of keeping none but such.

He should instruct them how to house and treat such breeds so as to obtain the greatest possible number of eggs. To tell them which breeds make the best market chickens in the shortest time.

Whether it would be best to use artificial incubation in producing such chickens.

To instruct the farmers how to send their poultry to market dressed in the most approved methods.

He should give exhibitions of dressed poultry at different points so that the farmers, their wives, and daughters may take lessons.

He should be able to give instructions as to the best way of packing poultry so as to arrive at the point of sale in the best possible condition.

He should make experimental shipment of choice eggs and poultry so as to ascertain the highest price attainable for a superior article.

His department might be affiliated with that of the Dairy Commissioner, for butter cheese and eggs are quoted together in Commercial circles.

The Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa has an extensive poultry department in connection with it and an experienced officer at its head. He should be the man to fill the position briefly outlined. His appointment or that of one equally experienced would be an auspicious beginning for a new minister and a practical earnest of his intent to further the interests of the farmers of the Dominion.

FEEDING FOWLS FOR EGGS.

THE MORNING MASH.

(Continued from January.)

THIS mash, our readers will notice, contains a great variety of food elements, and this *variety* is a quite important factor. A fowl needs a variety of food to supply her various physical needs, and give her a surplus out of which to make eggs, and this "variety" of foods we believe we can best attain in the manner described above. An additional advantage is that a tonic or stimulant can be added if desired; we sometimes substitute a teaspoonful of tincture of iron for the condiment, and sometimes add a handful of linseed meal or cottonseed meal; but the latter are somewhat fattening (as well as stimulating), and those who feed their fowl *swell*, must beware of too fattening foods.

Some poultrymen make a practice of stirring up the mash scalding hot in the morning and feeding it at once. In that case the meals are simply scalded—are not cooked. By our method the meals are semi-cooked, and more immediately available for assimilation; hence we prefer making up the mash the afternoon of the day before, and having it semi-cooked when fed to having it fed hot but only scalded.

This morning mash is fed in troughs large enough so that *all* of the fifteen fowls in a pen can get about it at one time; another important factor, because if the trough is small some of the birds have to stand back and wait for second table, and when their chance does come there's nothing left for them. With a trough 4 feet long by 6 inches wide, there is plenty of room, and if a biddy is driven away