

why the chicks should not be perfectly satisfactory, as the pullets would then have matured sufficiently before laying the first egg.

Complaints were made of some unsatisfactory dealings with distant fanciers, and it was suggested that purchasers of eggs or fowls should either purchase from well-known fanciers in the neighbourhood or from persons at a distance who were known to be reliable. The fanciers were becoming more conscientious every year and it was easy to distinguish the reliable from the unreliable. The first information necessary in purchasing eggs at a distance, is to make sure that the vendor is a breeder of the variety of birds from which the eggs are obtained, as the fact that he exhibited certain breeds was only "prima facie" evidence of that state of affairs. This in response to questions along that line.

Binbrook was, from at least one point of view, the most interesting place yet visited. The discussion after the lecture was enlivening, one farmer especially, being of an enquiring turn of mind. It was evident he was a careful student of the requirements of the farm, whether or not he was correct in his estimate of the age of his fowls I would not care to say; he stated, however, that he had a hen sixteen years of age which, on the previous day, had laid the last of three eggs laid on successive days. I have none, he added, under eight years of age, and the one particularly mentioned will be sixteen next "hatching." It may be possible to see these hens when I reach Canfield and if I am within five miles of the farm I shall make it a point to do so. I took more salt with my dinner that day than I have been in the habit of doing.

Smithville has a few poultry breeders who take a lively interest in poultry talks. The Secretary of the Institute keeps the good old Indian Game and barred Rocks and that helps things. The lecture brought out a question regarding the shape of the best layers in a flock. No definite information was vouchsafed on that point, it being merely stated that an impression existed that a long bodied fowl laid more eggs than a short bodied one. The lecturer had not experimented on that line and simply gave the information for what it was worth; there was no acknowledged rule laid down. The enquirer said that the suggestion accorded with his experience. His long bodied fowls laid better and he was breeding along that line.

Green feed should be given after a meal as is evidenced by the habits of fowls at liberty. During the morning for instance, say after ten or eleven o'clock, the fowls are dusting, basking in the sun, chasing bugs and flies, etc., but feed them at the regular hour, about noon, and immediately they scatter in search of green food. Imitate as nearly as possible natural conditions.

Campden brought out the best meeting yet, most enthusiastic and largest. The whole town and surroundings gave evidence of intelligent, painstaking industry.

Much interest was evinced in the discussions and lectures no matter what the subject. An anxiety to gain information was evident, in fact, the discussion on poultry was so prolonged that a request was made that it should be continued at the evening meeting.

There are a number of breeders of barred Rocks and Spanish in the vicinity, and the care exercised in the poultry yard appears to be above the average. The delegates were flattered at their reception and by the enthusiastic response to the Chairman's suggestion that they be requested to return next year.

Grange Hall, South township, was the rendezvous, under adverse circumstances. Blowing a hurricane, snow drifting and the thermometer  $^{\circ}10$  or  $^{\circ}12$  below zero, was not an outlook that would induce many farmers to leave their firesides, nevertheless there were about fifty present. So far as poultry goes the interest centred in the feeding of cut green bone. In reply to a question on this point, its use was advocated in winter as an egg producer, and several gentlemen evinced a desire to purchase the bone but had found it difficult to obtain it even in the adjoining city of St. Catharines. Here we met an old Hamburg fancier who, in olden times, was well acquainted with our friend Sharp Butterfield.

The weather was so very bad that it was decided by vote that it would be useless holding an evening meeting.

Orange Hall, Grantham township, was slightly more favoured on the morrow, the wind having subsided. The interest in poultry was great, and after exemplifying that it was a remunerative industry to the satisfaction of those in attendance, the ensuing discussion was quite lively. Several of those present wished to be informed as to the particular variety of