

APPENDIX No. 3

my and what a void we surely have. And I want them, both the eggs and poultry, to be of the very highest quality.

HOW POULTRY DEVELOPMENT IS SHAPING.

SECOND.—The rapidly increasing prices of both eggs and poultry, in recent years, have doubtless incited many to go into poultry keeping with the praiseworthy object of making money. Many try but few get there. I am often asked the question, 'Why are strictly new laid eggs and the better quality of poultry so high in value.' I answer with the truism, 'Because they are hard to get.' 'Hard to get! Why I thought poultry keeping was dead easy.' I again reply, 'Try for yourself and find out.' A popular conception of poultry keeping is, 'Buy a few hens throw down the grain and pick up the dollar bills.' But such is not the case. On the contrary successful poultry keeping is an exact and exacting science. Exact, because if not enough food is given there is little or no product, if too much, the fowls become too fat and the result is the same. Exacting, because adaptability, keen observation, untiring perseverance and proper appreciation of apparently trifling details are indispensable to success. Is it any wonder then that, as I have remarked, so few succeed of the many who try. In the face of all these exacting conditions, poultry keeping of the better, that is the more profitable sort, is progressing. And how is that development shaping?

WHO SUPPLY THE GREATER NUMBER OF STRICTLY NEW LAID EGGS.

In two ways. By the way of the specialist, and secondly by way of the farmer. Recently I wrote a short article, in the Canadian Poultry Review of Toronto showing the high prices paid for strictly new laid eggs in the Montreal markets, and expressing my surprise that so few farmers took advantage of these high prices. To my astonishment, in reply to that article, I got a large number of letters from different parts of the country. Here is one from Newmarket, another from St. John, one from Hereward, another from Cornwall, one from Orillia, and here is one from a banker, and so on. There is one letter that I would like to read, because it shows how the printed evidence given out by this committee is appreciated.

(Reads):

'IRVINE, ALBERTA, January 24, 1912.

Mr. A. G. Gilbert,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir.—

Yours of 15th to hand. We find the information regarding the one-dozen egg boxes contained in your evidence of last year very useful, and we are very thankful to you for all your information. You advised us to try the western cities for the supply of these boxes, but as the poultry supplies and industries are more advanced in the east, we think it best to purchase our supplies there if we could find a suitable firm as we would need one thousand on the first order. Do you send out samples, or would the firm you recommend send us samples so we could have an idea of what they are like?

That is but a sample of letters from various places throughout the country. The members of the committee may therefore appreciate the value of having the different phases of agricultural work discussed before your committee. The point I wish to impress upon you is that these letters are from what we call specialists, and from these letters we also see the specialist may be a professional man, a clerk, a store-keeper, a mechanic, an individual who makes his living by keeping poultry on a small piece of land, or a farmer who is near to a city market. I am sorry to say that there