

potatoes and ground-grain mixture. During the last week whole wheat and some of the dry grain-mixture were left always before the birds in separate receptacles.

All birds were given sour skim-milk to drink, as well as clean water in a separate receptacle, while grit and charcoal were always before them. In addition raw mangels were always left before the birds to pick at. No account was kept of the amount of skim-milk or mangels that was consumed.

The pens in which the birds were running were about 20 ft. wide by 40 ft. long.

It will be noted from the tables that the birds that were fed till 6th May made little or no gain in weight during the last week of the test, indicating that in most cases three weeks of proper priming should be sufficient for well-grown birds.

The success of this trial is due in a large measure to the efficient supervision of Mr. C. Cussen, Poultry Instructor, Christchurch, and to the close attention given to the birds by Mr. R. M. Henderson, Caretaker of the Quail Island Quarantine-station.

POTATO VARIETY TESTS: SEASON 1915-16.

MOUMAHAKI.

IN past years a large number of varieties of potatoes have been tested at the Moumahaki Experimental Farm. Each year numerous sorts were discarded, with the result that during the past season, although an increased area was grown, the number of varieties was considerably reduced.

As in the previous season, the land devoted to potatoes was a portion of an old lucerne-field, and the lucerne having enriched the soil in nitrogenous matter it was not necessary to supply any to the crop artificially. The following fertilizers were applied at the rate of 5 cwt. per acre: Superphosphate 5 parts, sulphate of potash 1 part.

Planting took place from the 22nd to 27th September, 1915. The crop was sprayed with Vermorite on 23rd November and again on 15th December, and the tubers were lifted during the last week in March, 1916. A normal growing season was experienced.