

and not at a grading-depot. Some breeders even went so far as to send in eggs that had failed to hatch in an incubator.

During the process of grading, testing, &c., many persons visited the depots and took a keen interest in the work. Unfortunately, however, the work was not witnessed by many of those requiring the lesson most—the producing community. Had the various poultry organizations arranged gatherings of producers it would have no doubt served a most useful purpose by letting the careless poultryman judge for himself his own methods of marketing as compared with the methods of those who market their produce in a proper manner. Many breeders are pinning their faith to an export trade as a means of relieving the summer surplus, and rightly so, but it should be remembered that the critical overseas markets will not pay full rates for undersized and inferior-quality eggs. Only the best will warrant the export business. Especially is it necessary to remember quality in initiating a trade.

Another point that should be borne in mind is that the freight of eggs is based on space measurement, which the producer must in the long-run pay. The export case and fillers are made to hold thirty dozen 2 oz. eggs or slightly over. It is therefore poor business to send undersized eggs abroad, in view of the fact that the larger product is of much greater value. Particularly is this so in these days of high freight charges.

ACTION BY THE EGG-LAYING COMPETITION EXECUTIVES.

The egg-laying competitions have rendered the industry excellent service in developing the laying-power of certain breeds of poultry, but those who control them have realized that the number of eggs produced should not be the only object. It is now recognized that the weight of eggs laid by the respective pens in the competitions is of equal or greater importance than numbers. It is interesting to know the weight of eggs produced by competing pens. These figures disclose valuable data, clearly indicating specialists' stock that fail to lay the required weight of egg. The management of the different competitions are to be congratulated on not allowing prizes to be won by birds laying a second-grade product, and it is only by this means that the egg-standard will be raised throughout the Dominion. The eggs sent from the laying competitions to the export depots were a picture to look at, being of good size, clean, and fresh.

THE LOCAL EGG-MARKET.

The unsatisfactory manner in which so many producers sent in their eggs for export (not only the small producers, but big ones as well, the latter in many cases being the worst offenders) obviously points to a weakness in the system under which the local trade is catered for. It was sufficient, indeed, to indicate that the marketing of eggs calls for urgent reform from one end of the Dominion to the other. Under the present crude pooling-system by which eggs are generally marketed there is no encouragement to the producer to go to any special trouble in breeding birds to lay good-sized eggs, or to market them in the best possible condition, simply because these supplies of a high-grade quality article have to be sold at the value of the unsatisfactory lines. Usually it is the eggs of the latter class coming on the market which set a low value for eggs in general. Obviously the consumer will not be keen for them, so the price has to be reduced, perhaps a second and third time, till the rate is so tempting that sales are effected.

One of the best means of encouraging a greater local consumption of eggs will be by the institution of a system of grading and testing every egg before it reaches the consumer, as has been done in the case of eggs for export. If the various egg-circles operating in the Dominion are really anxious to build up a high-class local trade, which would be of real benefit to both the consumer and producer, they must have regard to this feature. The day is passing when the consumer will purchase eggs irrespective of quality. He will rightly demand that they be fresh, clean, and of a certain weight. The necessity, therefore, of defining a first- and second-grade egg for the local market becomes a matter of prime importance.

It is gratifying to note that at least some of the Wellington grocers have adopted the principle of selling eggs according to their weight. They are sold by count as formerly, but they are graded to size. This ensures that each grade is of about the same relative value so far as weight is concerned. This is how