



### A Trick in Seed Selling.

The Grain Dealers' National Association, recently in session in Milwaukee, passed the following resolutions:

Whereas, Seed houses do a large business in the sale of seed grains, and thereby may materially affect the general business of the crops of grain thus produced, either for better or worse; and,

Whereas, It is known that seed thus sold by seed houses does not always possess the merit of type and breeding sufficient to meet the expectations of the purchaser, and in fact often does not tend to raise the standard of the general crops produced. For example it has been too common a practice for seedsmen to purchase ordinary corn from farmers' cribs and sell the same under special brands when in fact it possessed no special merit whatever, with respect to type and breeding, and the same is true in regard to other grains; therefore,

Resolved, That the Grain Dealers' National Association, now in convention assembled in Milwaukee this 23d day of June, 1904, does hereby urgently request all firms engaged in the selling of seed grain to adopt a line of business policy that will result in giving more attention to the questions of type and breeding and adaptability and thereby assist in improving the quality and yield of grains; also,

Resolved, That the secretary be instructed to send a copy of this resolution to all the principal firms engaged in the business of selling seed grains in the grain producing states, and also to all the leading agricultural papers in the country.

The practice against which the resolution is directed is one that has long been condemned by conscientious dealers. It not only injures the farmers, but injures the firms that are trying to do an honest business. It is gratifying to see a great association take the stand that this one has taken. The agitation is sure to bear fruit.—Farmers' Review.

### Corn in British India.

The cultivation of Indian corn, or maize, has within the past century become a factor of great importance in the rural economy of British India. The Indian Agriculturist (Calcutta) of June 1, 1904, says: "This grain, if we consider the whole of India collectively, is now of equal economic importance with wheat. In the hilly tracts of the country especially, and among the bulk of the aboriginal tribes, it is chiefly depended upon as a means of subsistence. Yet the botanist, Roxburgh, writing about a hundred years ago, described it as 'cultivated in various parts of India in gardens, and only as a delicacy, but not anywhere on the continent of India, as far as I can learn, as an extensive crop.' Its use in upper India may have been more general at that time than this writer was aware, for its most common vernacular name, makkai, derived from Mecca, is supposed to associate its introduction with the Mogul dynasty. But there is no name for maize in Sanskrit, and the grain has no recognized place in the religious or social ceremonies of the Hindus. Few of those who cultivate it now have any idea that it is an innovation, and the fact that its local name is often that of some much older crop encourages the pious belief that it has been the staple food of the district for untold generations."

Those who have watched the live stock interests of the country know that they are advancing slowly a little each year. It is, however, possible to make a more marked advance.



### Some Good Cows.

Evidently there are some good cows in the herds competing at the World's Fair. In a recent ten-day test the Holsteins (15 cows) produced an average of 57.7 pounds of milk daily, and this milk yielded 1.97 pounds of butter-fat daily. The pounds of solids not fat produced daily was 4.48 pounds.

The Jersey cows gave an average of 44.5 pounds of milk per day, and averaged 1.97 pounds of butter-fat. The total pounds of solids produced per cow per day was 3.77. There were 25 cows in this test.

Only five Brown Swiss cows competed. These produced an average of 51.7 pounds of milk daily. This milk contained 1.66 pounds of butter fat and 4.41 pounds of solids other than butter-fat.

In the Shorthorn herd competing there were 29 cows. These produced an average of 36.8 pounds of milk, and this milk contained 1.23 pounds of butter-fat and 3.06 pounds of solids other than butter fat.

All of these records are good, but when the production per 1,000 pounds of cow weight is figured out and the relative cost of production the specific dairy breeds will doubtless be seen to be far ahead of the others. The Shorthorn cows especially seem to have suffered by the test.

### Thickness of Cream at Churning Time

A well-known buttermaker says that the richer the cream the lower must be the temperature at which it must be churned to get the best results. It is not desirable to have the butter-fat comprise more than 30 per cent of the cream. Even cream of this richness should be churned at about 50 degrees, which is a very low point to secure this time of year. If this rich cream is churned at a higher point the body of the butter will not be what it should be. The housewife is not likely, however, to have cream of this kind unless the milk is from cows whose cream forms a very compact mass. Cows differ greatly in this respect. The cream layer on the milk of some animals is so compact and cohesive that when it is removed from the milk it hangs together much like a piece of leather. Other milk yields a layer of cream that breaks to pieces readily. This milk will not churn quickly. In fact we have known the first described cream to form butter after being churned for two minutes in a common dash churn. It is considered best, however, to dilute such cream, as it is not believed that butter churned in two minutes has as good qualities as that requiring twenty minutes or thereabout to churn.

### New Zealand and Dairy Exports.

The general public does not, perhaps, realize how large a place New Zealand is filling in the production of butter and cheese for consumption in England. New Zealand is as yet but a thinly populated country, and the annual receipts of several million dollars for butter and cheese sold in the English market is a considerable item. The trade has largely been built up during the last ten years. It now amounts to about seven million dollars for butter and a million for cheese. For the year ending March, 1895, New Zealand exported butter to the value of 263,244 pounds and cheese to the value of 160,383 pounds. A pound is equal to \$4.86 in our money. By 1900 the exports of butter from New Zealand were worth 693,701 pounds and of cheese 208,258 pounds. The development has been very steady, showing the healthy condition of the trade and the gradual increase in the cow population of New Zealand. For the year ending March, 1904, the exports of butter were worth 1,440,237 pounds and of cheese 217,149 pounds.

## POULTRY



### Yarding Fowls.

A good deal of experimenting will have to be done before the question of yarding fowls is settled. With the small flock on the farm the problem is not a large one, but with the large flock the problems increase both in size and number. If a man have several hundred hens shall he let them all have the run of the farm; shall he confine them in one yard; or in several? The man with a good many fowls will hardly care to let them have the run of the farm. With a small flock it is different; and he will need to keep them confined only while the plants are getting a start in the spring. After the garden has got to growing well the birds may be turned in with no possibility of harm except to lettuce and to tomatoes when they begin to get ripe. As to other vegetables the birds will only prove a help by picking off the bugs. Also in the fall of the year when the grain has been harvested the birds will do the farmer much good in his grain fields by picking up the seeds that have dropped from the heads in time of harvesting. Incidental arrangements and circumstances also affect the problem. A lady told the writer that she had 200 Brown Leghorn hens. She said her husband was a thresher and much grain was hauled to his farm and threshed there. This gave a considerable amount of lost grain which supported her 200 fowls with little other feed. This was a happy arrangement that seldom exists.

All things being equal, it will be better to keep large flocks yarded most of the time. If there are more than one flock they may be turned out after the grain harvest, one flock one day and another another. But it is far easier to keep the flocks shut up and establish a regular system of yarding and feeding them. In this country of cheap land there seems little reason in depriving fowls of room. The more room the less the required height of the fence. Yards on farms should be large enough so that they can be divided into two or three parts. Green stuff, like rape and oats may be sown in one part, and after it has obtained a good growth the fowls may be turned in and another part of the yard seeded. It is not possible to grow any crop while the fowls are in the yard as they will feed off the developing crop to the roots.

If a man have heavy fowls the fences need be not more than three feet high. The birds will not generally try to fly over. This does not include the Plymouth Rocks, which are both quite heavy and good flyers. We have found that with a good-sized yard a four-foot wire fence will stop even the Leghorns if there is no board at the top of the fence. They will not make the attempt to fly over unless they can have a board to light on. On the other hand, in cramped quarters we have seen Leghorns become very expert in getting over a wire fence even without a top board.

It is a mistake to suppose that fowls having the run of the farm lay more than birds yarded. Carefully conducted experiments have failed to show any advantage of this kind, popular impressions to the contrary notwithstanding. The man that yards his fowls must simply supply them with the green and animal food they would get on their foraging expeditions.

### Habit and Menn.

Anyone that has had the feeding of fowls for a number of years will notice what creatures of habit they are. They become used to one kind of feed and want to stick to that feed, in preference to other feeds of the same general character. That is if the chicks are fed oats they will always prefer oats to other grain, and the same is

true if they are brought up on corn. This does not hold good in the case of meat or green food being offered after they have been on a single grain diet for months. Their feeling of a lack in this respect overcomes their inclination to stick to one thing. This can be illustrated by keeping chicks for a number of weeks after they are born on some particular ration like cracked corn. They will then take that in preference to other things of the same general nature. The writer has had illustration of this again and again. Thus some men have declared that hens will not eat oats. The writer has always fed oats in large quantities to his fowls from the time they were old enough to eat grain. He once kept his fowls from oats for a few days, giving them corn instead. Then he took the corn away and gave the fowls a mixed ration of corn and oats. The birds made a lunge for the oats, pushing the corn aside with their bills and picking only the oats till they were satisfied.

### The Narragansett Turkey.

The Narragansetts are next in size to the Bronze. The ground color of their plumage is black, each feather ending with a band of steel gray edged with black. This gives a grayish color to the surface plumage.



Narragansett Turkey (Male).

They are beautiful in form and feather and breed true to shape and color. The female is lighter in her markings than the male. The weight of the males runs from 20 to 30 pounds and of the females 12 to 18 pounds.

### An Incubation Experiment.

In the incubation experiments, 8,677 eggs from various sources have been set in the incubators. Of these, 7,205, or 83 per cent., were fertile. Three thousand three hundred and forty-eight, or 46 per cent., of the fertile eggs were hatched. This was 38.6 per cent of the total number. The efficiency of hatching under various conditions ranged from 0 per cent to 84 per cent. These experiments were planned in the direction of testing the efficiency of the machines and the influence of moisture and room temperature upon the hatch.—Rhode Island Station.

It pays to candle eggs unless the date of their being laid is certainly known.

### On the Ranges.

Reports from the ranges indicate a large supply of cattle and very good agricultural conditions. The rains have been copious during a large part of this grazing season and consequently the production of grass on the plains has been good. The lack of drinking facilities has not been felt on the plains this year as in some former years; for the reason that many of the springs have been kept supplied by the rains. This has made a condition that is favorable for grazing. The only drawback is that last winter was unusually severe on range stock and they came into spring in poor condition, thus necessitating a longer feeding period in summer for their preparation for market. The abundance of good grass encourages the rangers to believe that the cattle will put on weight rapidly from now on.