

# Egg And Poultry Association Had Successful Year

## Mr. J. A. Thompson, Kensington Re-elected President—Reports Show Increase In Eggs And Poultry Handled.

The annual meeting of the Prince Edward Island Co-operative Egg and Poultry Association marked the opening of the second day of the Farmers' Parliament of the province.

President J. A. Thompson of Kensington reported increases in the Association's handling of eggs and poultry during 1935.

The provincial organization handled 768,908 dozens of Prince Edward Island eggs during the past year, a gain of 300 dozens over the previous 12 months, he said.

A 50 per cent increase over 1934 and a 10 per cent increase over 1933, was shown in the handling of dressed poultry, President Thompson reported.

"Reviewing the year's activities it is with optimism we look forward to the coming season. There is a better feeling in all lines of endeavor and especially so with the co-operative organizations that have withstood the past few years of turmoil and depression," he said.

The manager, Mr. Leonard McDonald, submitted his report for the year. Both reports appear in full below.

Mr. E. S. Rose, East Baltic, read a paper on egg production prepared by Mrs. Rose, who last year was the largest individual shipper of eggs to the Association. He voiced thanks and congratulations was tendered Mrs. Rose.

The matter of disease affected poultry was briefly discussed and the methods of securing blood tests of poultry, it was pointed out that this was a matter for the Federal Department, and those requiring blood tests of their flock were advised to have this work done early in the fall.

**Afternoon Session**

Speakers at the afternoon session were: Mr. B. F. Tinney, assistant superintendent of the Experimental Station, Charlottetown, who spoke on poultry breeding work at the Experimental Station. He gave a very interesting address containing some valuable information to poultrymen. His address appears below.

Other speakers were: Hon. W. H. Dennis, Mr. W. R. Shaw, Mr. W. L. Brenton.

The election of officers resulted in the re-election of Mr. J. A. Thompson, Kensington, as president. The three vice-presidents are for each county are: Austin Laird of Cavendish, Queens County; Mont Annear, Montague, Kings County; and J. P. Arsenault, Mount Carmel, Prince County.

The 1936 directors of the association are as follows: Queens County: J. J. MacLeod, Bonshaw; R. C. MacLeod, Kinross; Austin Laird, Cavendish. Prince County: W. B. MacLellan, Alma; J. A. Thompson, Kensington; J. P. Arsenault, Mount Carmel. Kings County: H. L. Machon, Murray Harbor; D. J. Mullins, St. Peter's; J. E. Dingwell, Elmira; Mont Annear, Montague.

They were all re-elected.

Mr. Shaw's address.

One of Prince Edward Island's most important and pressing problems was the run down farm, Mr. W. R. Shaw, deputy-minister of agriculture, told the annual meeting of the Co-operative Egg and Poultry Association yesterday.

The deputy minister declared many of the farmers in the province have lost courage due to the hard times which have faced them during the past few years.

"Rehabilitation of farms is a pressing need," he said.

In the poultry industry Mr. Shaw saw a remedy to the situation.

The returns from the poultry industry are quick and the material it requires are cheap, he pointed out. Poultry was one of the most important agricultural branches, he said, and it was worthy of every encouragement from the provincial department of agriculture.

The deputy minister congratulated the Egg and Poultry Association for its record during the past year declaring it was one of the best agricultural organizations in Prince Edward Island.

"Its future is bright—it has a getting spirit," he said.

**Brought Greetings**

Mr. W. L. Brenton, dairy superintendent, in a short address brought greetings from the dairymen. He pointed out the close relation between the dairy cow, the hog and the hen on the farm and the value of such a system of farming. Among its many valuable features might be cited soil maintenance and improvement.

**Resolutions**

The resolutions passed at the meeting are given below. One that

the following have shown increase over 1,000 dozens. Heading the list is North Side, 10,871 dozens; Millville, a close second with 10,717 dozens; Tignish 6,079 dozens; St. Andrew's, 2,630 dozens; Lot 46, 2,542 dozens; Corral Bann 2,171 dozens; Bonshaw 2,145 dozens; Wheatley River 2,051 dozens; New Perth 1,900 dozens; Martinville 1,684 dozens; St. Peter's 1,631 dozens; Bloomfield 1,439 dozens with smaller increases in Afton, Belfast, Dundas, Mt. Carmel, Rollo Bay, Springfield and St. Margaret's. Besides the reorganization of two Circles, namely, Rustico, that shipped in 20,132 dozens, and New London North, which was with 300 dozens, with 5,633 dozens, 344 new members joined the Association during the past year, which accounts for the splendid increase in the above-mentioned circles. Year-round production is becoming more in evidence as each year rolls by. The following memo of circles shipping clearly depicts the attitude of the energetic producer. During the year Circles shipping 11 months—1 Circles shipping 10 months—3 Circles shipping 9 months—6 Circles shipping 8 months—3 Circles shipping 7 months—5 Circles shipping 6 months—1

The average price returned to all members was 17.63, which is an increase of 1.08 over 1934. The percentage of Grade A eggs handled by the Association was 75.88 per cent, which is very creditable owing to the very unusual weather conditions during the mid-season season. One car load of live poultry was handled and shipped to Montreal. Prices paid were on a basis of 11c for top grades and as low as 8c. for the poorest grade.

Dressed poultry showed a very substantial increase of approximately 50 per cent, over 1934, and 100 per cent, over 1933. This is as we have wished and is a very gratifying result. We will take advantage of this medium of marketing their poultry. An effort was made to get the collectors interested and pay them a slight commission for all poultry that they would assemble and ship to the Central Plant.

We must compliment the collectors of Millville, U.S., and Rustico for their cooperation in assembling and shipping such choice quality poultry. Other circles taking advantage of this method of shipping were East Point, Georgetown, Southern King's, Rustico, Springfield West and Bloomfield. The Hatchery was let stand for 1935, but arrangements are being made and the Hatchery is being put in order for the coming season's activities. This Hatchery will be operated for the sole purpose of producing a type of poultry suitable to our Island needs.

Feed was handled by the Association on a cost plus handling charge basis. Members are being advised a very big demand from a goodly number of members. With the poor quality of grain produced last season, we urge members to take advantage of this service, which is being demonstrated daily by good poultrymen everywhere, that it pays to purchase feed at present ruling prices for eggs.

Reviewing the year's activities, it is with optimism we look forward to the coming season, there being a better feeling in all lines of endeavor and especially so with Co-operative Organizations that have withstood the past few years of turmoil and depression. Most worthy of all our farming activities is our dutiful hen that adds in no small way in keeping a steady source of income.

The production of high quality products is our direct line of communication to success. Add to this our personal responsibility and united effort to our Organization, we will have the very essence of cooperative success.

In closing, we wish to impress upon our members that they should realize that it is to their interest in producing and shipping to the Co-operative, a product which will be worthy of the name that the Co-operative holds for its produce.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors.

**J. A. THOMPSON,** President.

**SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT**

To Directors, Delegates and members of the P.E.I. Co-operative Egg and Poultry Association. Gentlemen:

The following report of the Financial Statement covering Loss and Gain, Assets and Liabilities, herewith presented for your approval. (Statement read.)

During the year we had the pleasure of reorganizing the New London North, which helped considerably in bringing about our increase in dozens of eggs over the previous year. This year, congratulations are to be extended to Mrs. Edson S. Rose, Lot 46 Circle, for shipping the most dozens to the Association, the total number of dozens being 2,685.6, which is a remarkable achievement and shows the way to possibilities from any members that would increase their interest in this line of work, which netted a nice profit over feed cost to this member. We must again stress the importance of the proper handling of eggs before shipping to the Central Plant, especially so in the matter of cleanliness, which means that rolled eggs, no matter how fresh, must be put down into the lower grades. This year, our Grade B eggs amounted to 3.85 per cent, and C Grade eggs amounted to 10.76 per cent, of total graded eggs. This should not be the case with the knowledge given out in poultry promotion work and through the Central Plant Organization. With slight daily attention in keeping hen houses supplied with litter and a plentiful supply of nests, the above percentages of grades B and C eggs could be cut at least one-half of what they are at present. There is also a rather high percentage of bad eggs, there being approximately one-third more than the previous year, due consider-

ably to the very extreme heat during the month of August. This loss could also be cut to a minimum if nothing but infertile eggs were shipped. The estimated value of bad eggs would be in the vicinity of \$1,000, without including the cost of collecting, express charges and grading. The Circle this year showing the most improvement, rather than importing stock, a great deal of which is not as good as our own.

**Progeny Survey**

After sizing up the situation and selecting the part we were to play in this plan for improvement, we found it necessary to build up a high producing strain before we were in a position to offer birds to the public. As a preliminary we developed a system for making a progeny survey. Pedigrees, production and egg weight records were traced back for many generations. This mass of data was then sorted into groups each tracing back to a single male, then large survey sheets were prepared showing in family groups, all the progeny, together with their records, developed from each male.

A study of these sheets, when completed, provided interesting and decidedly useful information. It was found that many family groups were uniformly low in production. Other lines were "spotty," that is composed of an odd high and many lows. In so far as it was possible to detect these families accurately all birds, male and female alike, were for the most part discarded at once. Right here I might point out the fallacy of depending on high individual egg production alone as a basis for selection of breeding stock. In the "spotty" group just mentioned quite a few producing individuals were found. In our experience, in almost every case where these high birds were

traced back for many generations, they produced "spotty" progeny—a few "highs" and many "lows."

The third group segregated were those family groups found to be reasonably uniformly high in production. These were retained for future breeding work.

**New Breeding Policy**

In the new breeding policy adopted several factors were involved. All birds were to be selected on the basis of pullet-sister group records, individual high records receiving little consideration. Reasonable egg weight was required, and unless retained for some particular reason no pullet-sister group of less than four individual's was to be saved. Groups when placed in laying quarters had to show low mortality, when forced for production, and no culling was to be done after going into winter quarters.

Without going further into detail I will draw your attention to the table setting forth pullet-year production, a the Experimental Station.

**AVERAGE PULLET-YEAR PRODUCTION**

Year	Old System	Prod.
1927		141.6
1928		151.8
1929		143.7
1930		166.7
1931		150.9
Ave.		
Year	Formative	Prod.
1931		168.3
1930		165.1
1929		173.7
1928		178.5
1927		171.4
Ave.		
Year	Progressive	Prod.
1935		194.3
1934		195.9

We feel that we have attained a certain measure of success in our efforts. The idea in mind from the first has been that our success would be your opportunity. We feel that we now have available cockerels of exceedingly high quality for heading mating pens and these are being offered to our farmer breeders at prices very much below the price you would be called upon to pay for imported birds that we believe are not in any way comparable to our own.

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Poultry raising, and consequently poultry problems, in "the Island" follows along quite different lines than in other parts of the Dominion.

Several years ago the Station staff made a survey of the poultry industry and found the situation about as follows and in the main we may say still obtains: Very few commercial plants are in operation, practically the entire poultry population being found in small farmer-flocks of possibly fifty and seldom over one hundred layers. Also only a few commercial hatcheries are in operation. These two factors, in the past, have added materially to the difficulties experienced in improvement and promotional activities. No dependent on poultry for his living, the small flock owner, in many instances was not inclined to follow any active flock improvement policy. "Hens" with him were but a side line. All too often the birds were permitted to pick their living in and around the barnyard, with no definite feeding program followed. Factors in such cases, was likely to be low, and with profits as a minimum any suggestion to purchase improved stock was likely to receive little or no consideration. Cheap stock, frequently bargain-price "day-olds" perhaps formed the source of supply for renewal of the flock. Improvement, if any, was slow.

Not all, fortunately, were of this type. Many small flock owners were, and are following approved methods in poultry-keeping and are breeding either well selected individuals or purchasing excellent stock, males or day-olds, for purposes of flock renewal. The profits of such small units, however, are likely to be seasonal, curtailed, due to difficulty in disposing of surplus stock. The extent of their activities does not warrant advertising, and unless the flock is of outstanding reputation it will be known in but a small localized area. Small hatcheries too, have this same difficulty in that they do not advertise, and may not be widely known regardless of how good their product may be. As a matter of fact, the large-scale operators in other parts of Canada, who advertise through the press, may perhaps be better known by the farmer-breeder than is a resident breeder or hatchery man who lives nearby or within a few miles.

**Superior Type Barred Rocks**

At the same time, there has, in the past years, been developed in this province, a type of Barred Rocks capable of good production, and admirably suited to the production of a smooth-skinned, golden fleshed, table fowl, grading high when dressed.

Having sized up the situation the lead for station activities seemed fairly well defined: To develop a high-producing strain of birds, make these available to the small flock owner at reasonable prices and at the same time preserve, develop and distribute within the province this desirable body type that seemingly is located here.

And right here it might not be amiss to elaborate somewhat on this point of body type. From grading returns available, from our own observation, and from the observation of the extension men in poultry work we are percentage of milk fed A grade of chicken is shipped from this province than from any other part of the Dominion. We are told by those who claim to know that this is due to a desirable body conformation in our Barred Rocks. It would seem to me that steps should be taken to organize the industry to reduce the very large number of day-old chicks that are now being imported into our province.

If we have a superior type of bird, and this bird is not available in other parts of the Dominion it will not take many years to loose this valuable asset, if thousands upon thousands of what I will call off-type, day-olds are introduced

each season. With an approved system of hatchery supervision and registration adopted and with some medium, possibly the Egg and Poultry Association, through which those having first class stock for sale could list their surplus birds, it would seem to me that much might be done toward filling our own orders, rather than importing stock, a great deal of which is not as good as our own.

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1933 1974  
1932 2054  
Ave. 1983

The "old" system may be defined as that in which high "individual bird" records played the major role in selecting breeders.

The "formative" period followed a careful progeny survey, but quite few "individual highs" were bred in the hope that some gain might be made.

During the "progressive" period practically every bird used in the mating pens came from a high producing pullet-sister group.

This season we have mated 154 birds having an average pullet-year production of 236.1 eggs.

Body type has come in for some consideration and at the present time our flock is composed of about 75 per cent desirable type to about 25 per cent flat or slab sided type.

**Measure of Success**

We feel that we have attained a certain measure of success in our efforts. The idea in mind from the first has been that our success would be your opportunity. We feel that we now have available cockerels of exceedingly high quality for heading mating pens and these are being offered to our farmer breeders at prices very much below the price you would be called upon to pay for imported birds that we believe are not in any way comparable to our own.

**MR. B. F. TINNEY'S ADDRESS**

The following was the address of Mr. B. F. Tinney, M.S.A., speaking on poultry breeding work at the Experimental Station, Charlottetown.

Poultry raising, and consequently poultry problems, in "the Island" follows along quite different lines than in other parts of the Dominion.

Several years ago the Station staff made a survey of the poultry industry and found the situation about as follows and in the main we may say still obtains: Very few commercial plants are in operation, practically the entire poultry population being found in small farmer-flocks of possibly fifty and seldom over one hundred layers. Also only a few commercial hatcheries are in operation. These two factors, in the past, have added materially to the difficulties experienced in improvement and promotional activities. No dependent on poultry for his living, the small flock owner, in many instances was not inclined to follow any active flock improvement policy. "Hens" with him were but a side line. All too often the birds were permitted to pick their living in and around the barnyard, with no definite feeding program followed. Factors in such cases, was likely to be low, and with profits as a minimum any suggestion to purchase improved stock was likely to receive little or no consideration. Cheap stock, frequently bargain-price "day-olds" perhaps formed the source of supply for renewal of the flock. Improvement, if any, was slow.

Not all, fortunately, were of this type. Many small flock owners were, and are following approved methods in poultry-keeping and are breeding either well selected individuals or purchasing excellent stock, males or day-olds, for purposes of flock renewal. The profits of such small units, however, are likely to be seasonal, curtailed, due to difficulty in disposing of surplus stock. The extent of their activities does not warrant advertising, and unless the flock is of outstanding reputation it will be known in but a small localized area. Small hatcheries too, have this same difficulty in that they do not advertise, and may not be widely known regardless of how good their product may be. As a matter of fact, the large-scale operators in other parts of Canada, who advertise through the press, may perhaps be better known by the farmer-breeder than is a resident breeder or hatchery man who lives nearby or within a few miles.

**Superior Type Barred Rocks**

At the same time, there has, in the past years, been developed in this province, a type of Barred Rocks capable of good production, and admirably suited to the production of a smooth-skinned, golden fleshed, table fowl, grading high when dressed.

Having sized up the situation the lead for station activities seemed fairly well defined: To develop a high-producing strain of birds, make these available to the small flock owner at reasonable prices and at the same time preserve, develop and distribute within the province this desirable body type that seemingly is located here.

And right here it might not be amiss to elaborate somewhat on this point of body type. From grading returns available, from our own observation, and from the observation of the extension men in poultry work we are percentage of milk fed A grade of chicken is shipped from this province than from any other part of the Dominion. We are told by those who claim to know that this is due to a desirable body conformation in our Barred Rocks. It would seem to me that steps should be taken to organize the industry to reduce the very large number of day-old chicks that are now being imported into our province.

If we have a superior type of bird, and this bird is not available in other parts of the Dominion it will not take many years to loose this valuable asset, if thousands upon thousands of what I will call off-type, day-olds are introduced

each season. With an approved system of hatchery supervision and registration adopted and with some medium, possibly the Egg and Poultry Association, through which those having first class stock for sale could list their surplus birds, it would seem to me that much might be done toward filling our own orders, rather than importing stock, a great deal of which is not as good as our own.