

THE FARMER AND CO-OPERATION.

The committee on co-operation of the New York State Agricultural Society is not idle, though no practical results have yet been affected or can be expected for some time to come. The members are studying the New York terminal problems, and the distribution facilities in the city, as a large part of the waste and loss occurs between the freight depot just outside the city, and the consumer's table. It is estimated that 65 cents of the consumer's dollar is expended in this distribution and the producers get on an average only the 35 cents left. A more wasteful and extravagant and irresponsible system could not be well devised. Different members of the committee, including the chairman, are going to Europe during the summer to study the marketing and co-operative association of the old countries, and every effort will be made, and is now being made, to perfect a new system in New York City for the economical distribution of farm products all the way from the farm to the city table. It is now quite certain that a new terminal system will be adopted; new markets for both wholesale and retail trade provided, and a City Department of Markets created to supervise and direct the sale of food products. The committee is concerned in bringing about these reforms; and is exerting its best influence to secure the best and most effective systems.

In the meantime the farmers will need to perfect local organizations among themselves to facilitate the packing, grading and shipping of products. Food products will be standardized in the future. Consumers must know by the label just what grade of goods are in the package without examination, and they must also know the amount of the contents in pounds. Short weight and measures will not go. A sub-committee has been provided to suggest standards and grades for produce; and in the early fall a meeting of the whole committee will be called to fix standards and to adopt packages and cartons suitable for the trade. This committee will be glad to receive suggestions from farmers' organizations or individual shippers anywhere, and would especially appreciate information as to packages and cartons that have proved satisfactory to the trade and to consumers.

While New York City is being first considered, because of its importance as our largest market, the committee realizes the importance of developing other cities and especially small local markets. Go through any small city or village in the State in strawberry time and you will find the markets stocked and the hotels provided with oranges and bananas, and California cherries, but seldom do you find the fruits of the local farmers in these markets. Likewise you will find apples from the Pacific Coast; but not one from the neighboring orchards. This is not as it should be. We must change it. It goes that way now because the Western fruit growers have organizations for shipping and selling. They can consequently supply the trade as needed, and the trade is not depending on the chance of an occasional delivery from an individual grower. This uncertainty of supply is the great drawback to trade with the individual grower. It can be overcome only by organizations of producers with selling and shipping agents so that the trade can be sure of constant supply. When this is combined with certainty as to quality and grade these markets can be easily developed to a most profitable trade.

Nothing like the present agitation

over this subject of markets was ever heard or known in this country before. The protest against extravagant profits by the jobbers and retailers is almost universal. Women are forming themselves into leagues of National scope and in some cases absolutely refuse to buy the goods until prices are lower. These organizations are at work in the States of New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and to some extent in practically the whole country. They have come to see, too, that the producers are imposed upon as well as themselves, and they are endeavoring to find means to reach the producer either direct or at most with only one handler intervening. Mrs. Julian Heath, of New York City, as President of the Housewives' League, composed of several hundred thousand women, is doing much good and promises some practical results. In addition to the League button, these women now in many places also wear a button with the word "Farmer" side by side with their own emblem to show that in this movement their interests are interwoven with the interests of the farmer. This good will is a wholesome influence. It is really an asset to the producer. It can be made a permanent asset by co-operating with the people interested in it, and in furnishing the goods in the grades and quantities needed. During the summer we will tell you how this is being done by farmers in other countries through co-operative organizations, and it is hoped that the autumn meeting may develop some means of putting the work in practical operation here.—John J. Dillon, Chairman.

CARE OF PIGS.

In every pen there should be a slatted partition arranged, to be lifted up and ropped easily. After the pigs have had their breakfast, lift this and drive them under, then drop in place. They are with their mother, yet separate from her, and the exercise sure to follow an attempt to get with her will do much to ward off disease and promote vigor and strength. Repeat this again in the afternoon, but surely allow the family to be together over-night.

Before two weeks old a small trough should be provided, into which pour a little fresh milk at frequent hours, being careful to thoroughly cleanse each time before filling. Gradually a little middlings may be added, and when the time comes for weaning, the process is simple and there will be no loss. Instead of taking the pigs away from the sow, when 6 to 8 weeks old, remove the sow from the pigs and they are in the only house they have ever known. It means a big, big loss to put a litter of pigs in strange quarters and have them squeal and starve for a couple of days, when a little thought would save all this. Look well to the teeth of the little fellows, but don't hunt for black ones as the cause of all earthly ills. If any are over sharp and are lacerating the cheek snip off the top with a pair of sharp pincers.

A healthy sow can well produce two litters a year though there is not as much profit in the second as the spring litter, but a little attention should be given to time of their coming. It is well, if the quarters are warm, to have the early litter come the very first of March and then breed the sow again five days after removing her from the pigs. This would allow for them to run with her six to eight weeks, and have the second litter come the last of August.—Massachusetts Crop Report.

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"I wish to complain," said the bride haughtily, "about that flour you sold me. It was tough." "Tough, ma'am?" asked the gro-

cer. "Yes, tough. I made a pie with it, and my husband could hardly cut it."