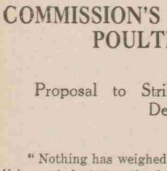
ONE SINGLE SCHEME FOR SCOTLAND.

Testing and Grading Essential Part of Reorganisation.

COMMISSION'S REPORT ON EGG AND POULTRY MARKETING.

Proposal to Strike "Single Scottish National Delivered Price."

"Nothing has weighed so much against the prospects of the Scottish egg industry as the fact that such a small proportion of the eggs is placed on the market with a guarantee of reliability."

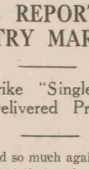


Major Mark Sprot.

This is one of the points emphasised by the Scottish Agricultural Marketing Reorganisation Commission for Eggs and Poultry in its long-waited-for report.

One of the important recommendations of the Commission is that eggs and poultry be one regulated product, and another is that, with certain exceptions, all eggs should be tested and graded.

The Commission's report, which was issued yesterday, will be of great interest to egg and poultry producers, who form an extensive and important section of the agricultural industry.



Mr W. K. Leggat.

This Commission, which was appointed in October, 1933, by the Secretary of State for Scotland, has now presented its Report, and the following is a resume of its contents.

The Commission was presided over by Major Mark Sprot of Riddell, and the other members were Mr H. R. Corner, Lord, and John Gould Kennedy, Mr W. K. Leggat, and Mr James Prentice. Mr J. C. Russell, of the Department of Agriculture for Scotland, was secretary. The Commission was charged with the duty of preparing, in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Acts, a scheme or schemes applicable in Scotland for regulating the marketing of eggs and poultry.

The Commission examined in all some ninety witnesses representing various Scottish agricultural bodies and the distributing and consuming interests. The Commission found its task complicated by the large number and diversity of poultry-keepers in Scotland—some 600,000, it is estimated—and it was clear that in any scheme a considerable degree of decentralisation was necessary.

Witnesses were unanimous in the view that there should be a separate scheme for Scotland. This view has been endorsed by the Commission as essential, at any rate in the earlier years of the scheme, in view of the need for a Board to keep in touch closely with the situation in all parts of Scotland.

Another point of unanimity amongst witnesses was the view that only clean and fresh eggs should be placed on the market, and that the testing and grading of home-produced eggs should form an essential part of any marketing reorganisation. The soundness of this view has been proved by the great success of such a policy in Northern Ireland. The scheme as drafted is mainly regulatory, though certain trading powers have been reserved for the Board.

Recommendations.

In brief the Commission recommends:—

(a) That there should be one single scheme for Scotland.

(b) That the scheme should be mainly regulatory.

(c) That "eggs and poultry" be one "regulated product."

(d) That with certain exceptions, all eggs should be tested and graded.

(e) That, with the addition of a "pullet" grade, the standards of weight grading should be those of the Scottish Utility Mark Egg Scheme.

(f) That a series of packing stations be set up throughout Scotland, preferably by outside enterprise, so as to provide adequate facilities for the testing and grading of eggs.

(g) That the Board, after consultation with the distributive trade, determine periodically for Scotland a national minimum delivered price to the distributive trade, calculated from a supply and demand basis.

(h) That the organisation of the table poultry industry should be developed.

(i) That, subject to certain exemptions, producers who possess more than fifteen male and females birds over two months old should not be permitted to sell eggs of such poultry, produced in Scotland unless they are registered under the scheme.

Part III. of the report deals with statistics of production, exports and imports of eggs and poultry in Scotland. In Part IV. the Commission states the various factors which have exacted adversely on the poultry industry. In the opinion of the Commission "nothing has weighed so much against the prospects of the Scottish egg industry as the fact that such a small portion of the eggs is placed on the market with a guarantee of reliability."

Irregularity of supply is another matter which has had a detrimental effect on the sale of Scottish eggs. The Commission refer more to the lack of systematised supply rather than to the seasonal variations, although the latter are becoming appreciably less owing to the increased adoption of scientific methods. The question of imports is dealt with briefly by the Great Britain Commission, which is shortly to be set up, and consequently the Scottish Commission has had a difficult task in this matter. It points out that if any organisation for the better marketing of home produced eggs is to be sustained there must be some corresponding control of imported supplies.

Chinese frozen liquid eggs are referred to as being packed in a form particularly suitable for the bakery trade, and there is at present no commercial supply in Scotland of dried eggs. It is common with Australian supplies in the trade of "scarce wastage," but we find, it is stated, a serious effect on the home preserved egg trade, with the consequence that prices are unduly depressed during the "flush" season owing to the lack of this form of retention of the market.

Importance of Testing.

The Commission also refer to the unfair effect on producers of allowing the home producer to mark his preserved eggs as such while allowing imported stored eggs to be presented for sale with no such indication. In prescribing remedies for the situation, the Commission state that while desiring to interfere as little as possible with the natural flow of home produced eggs in Scotland, they regard the principle of testing and grading of eggs as the foundation of any improvement in the home egg industry. In this way the present channels of egg distribution from the producer to the consumer would require to be supplemented by a testing and grading stage.

The report discusses the possibilities of increased consumption as the stimulation of demand. Scotland now produces 50 per cent. of the requirements in eggs, which gives room for considerable expansion, even assuming de-

'Farm Vet.' will appear to-morrow

mand to remain stationary. The Commission feel, however, that demand could be appreciably expanded by appropriate publicity organised by the Board in connection with the general scheme.

A novel feature in the report is the proposed price policy. From the evidence submitted it has been made clear that once the price of eggs has been pushed to a certain level there is a rapid drop in demand, and that the demand does not return so rapidly when prices fall. A blended "lag" occurs in the upward demand with the consequence that producers are apt to sustain unnecessary period of low prices before normality of trade returns to the egg market. Producers have expressed themselves in favour of sacrificing the highest prices of the "scarce" season in order to prevent a "flush" season could be prevented from falling to unremunerative levels.

The Commission's proposal is that, after consultation with representatives of the distributive trades, the Board should strike and publish periodically a single Scottish National minimum delivered price to the retail distributive trade, to become operative for Scotland a national minimum delivered price to the distributive trade, calculated from a supply and demand basis. The Commission point out that such a single national minimum delivered price would ensure that producers would secure that price, less packing station service charges, etc., though a producer in a sparsely populated district distant from both packing station and market, would not receive the same net return for his eggs as the producer who is more favourably situated.

Lack of System.

In regard to poultry all sales of birds for breeding purposes are to be exempted, the Commission point out in regard to table poultry that there is almost entire lack of system in the marketing of poultry in Scotland, and they visualise a period of development before any organisation can be effected under a scheme. They have, in consequence, drafted a scheme which can be put into operation when found necessary in regard to eggs, but which is, at the same time, appropriate for the marketing of table poultry as and when the organisation for the latter develops. It is stated that a price policy similar to that recommended in the cases of eggs can also be applied to table poultry so soon as supplies can be guaranteed according to grades and of good quality.

It is established that the egg packing stations to be instituted throughout the country will in due course form the centres at which table poultry will be delivered by producers to dealers and otherwise prepared for the market. Importance is laid on the great need for extension work in connection with the scheme, and it is stated that a price policy similar to that recommended in the cases of eggs can also be applied to table poultry so soon as supplies can be guaranteed according to grades and of good quality.

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The Commission state that those matters can all be encouraged by a Marketing Board in terms of the Act.

Scotland is to be divided into six regions, and the registered producers in each region will elect—by the postal ballot system—a Regional Committee. The Board as well as the Regional Committee for consultative purposes. In addition to these six regional members, the Board will have power to co-opt not more than two national members to the Board who "should be persons of outstanding ability and of high standing in relation to agriculture."

There will also be two co-opted members as provided by the statute. Thus the Board will consist of eleven members. From these an executive of four will be appointed to carry on the routine work of the Board at headquarters, and it is suggested that this executive committee might usefully be composed of the national and co-opted members.

In this way there will be a Board comprised partly of persons who should be able to speak at Board meetings with intimate knowledge of the operations of the scheme in the various regions and partly of persons with practical experience of business who will be able to devote their energies mainly to the commercial and financial side of the scheme. In full session, therefore, the Board should be able

(Continued in next column.)

BY APPOINTMENT

300 CASES LARGE JAFFA ORANGES

1/1½ per Doz. 2 Doz. 2/-

250 CASES EXTRA LARGE JAFFAS

1/4½ per Doz. 2 Doz. 2/6

UTMOST VALUE AND OFFERED BY

PEGLER'S

12 YEARS' TERRIBLE PAIN WITH GASTRITIS

What must a man think who, after 12 years of terrible gastric pain and after trying everything else, takes a 1/3 bottle as a "trial" only to find it cures him completely? Such is the case this quite unsolicited letter form Mr G. Windebank, of Titchfield, Hants.

"During the last twelve years I have suffered very badly from Gastritis, sometimes having to nearly starve myself for as much as a week at a time, only to start suffering again as soon as I started work. After trying nearly all the remedies shown in shop windows a chemist advised a bottle of Maclean Brand Stomach Powder, 1/3 size as a trial. I feel it my duty to let you know that it was not only a trial but a cure. I can eat more for one meal now than I could eat in any week during the past twelve years and do a hard day's work as well. I shall never fail to recommend Maclean Brand Stomach Powder to anyone who suffers with gastric trouble as I know what a terrible pain it is."

Get a bottle to-day, but do not accept an inferior substitute to save a few pence. Be sure to ask your chemist for the genuine Maclean Brand Stomach Powder with the signature "ALEX C. MACLEAN." It is not sold loose but only in 1/3, 2/- and 5/- bottles in cartons, of Powder or Tablets. [Advt.]

Continued from Page 9.

CATTLE & GRAIN MARKETS.

STONEHAVEN.

Stonehaven Auction Co., Ltd., had 54 fat cattle, one fat cow, two calver cows, six store cattle and 58 fat sheep. Good attendance of buyers from Aberdeen, Forfar and Montrose. Most of the cattle going south. Quality cattle sharp trade but no advance on prices can be quoted. Fat sheep dull. Supply short of requirements. Top quality cattle are live—and, of course, dead—lots. Mr. Mc. D. Coutts, Westerton of Durris, bought by Mr J. Allan, Glasgow: 45s 2d; bullock, 44s. Mr. Mc. bought by Messrs J. M'Intosh and Son, Stonehaven: 42s 6d; Mill of Haulkerton; 41s, Drumlochs and Ashgrove; 40s 8d, Mains of Catterline; 40s 4d, Mid Fiddes, Grains and Swinewaird; others from 37s 6d to 39s 6d. Mr Bruce bought: 42s 2d, 6d, off Mains of Catterline, to Mr J. Lothian, Glasgow; £22 2s 6d, Pityot; £20 7s 6d, Whitehillock; and parcels of Dorsets, £19 15s and £19. Fiddes: £17 12s 6d. Scrimgeour and Mains of Dawyo: others from £16 17s 6d. Bear heifers at £19 12s 6d. Pityot, to Messrs J. M'Intosh and Son, Stonehaven; £18 2s 6d, Mains of Haulkerton; £17 7s 6d, Aquhadais and Mill of Haulkerton; £17 2s 6d, Whiteinrye; others from £16 2s 6d. Pat pens: £11 17s 6d; Bruce bullocks and cows to £18 10s, Grains; £17 5s, Hallyneuks, Stere cattle: £17 10s, Forgie and others; £16 10s. Sheep—Hoggs to 54s 9d, Harviston; 45s 3d, Upper Westown of Barras; 43s 9d, Aughirie; 41s 9d, Stevenlaws; 40s 9d, Collieston.

TURRIFF.

Central—The Company's auspices were 16 fat pigs, 59 young pigs, two calves, 1277 head of poultry and seven young calves. Usual attendance of buyers. Fat pigs sold according to weights, met very dear trade. Young pigs also a firmer trade and ahead of requirements. Calves sold well. Fat pigs £6 10s and £6, Rothienorman, to Mr Wm. Panton, sen., Maud; £6 11s 6d, Strichen, to Mr Wm. Panton, jun., Maud; £4 9s and £4 5s, Claymires; £3 17s, Knowhead, Strichen; £3 15s and £3 14s, Mill of Laithers; £3 9s, Mains, Hatton; £3 1s, Mill of Colp; and from £2 15s, Young pigs, 31s, Milton, Auchterless; 30s 6d, Backhillock; 27s, Newton, Dunlugas; and Kirton, Fyvie; 27s 6d, Woodside, Auchterless; 27s 6d, Edwards, Auchleuchreid, Gilla, £9 and £8 5s, from Mr A. Barbet, Banff, etc.

Johnston and Paterson had 92 fat and 176 young pigs, 8vg breeding pigs, 853 head poultry, and 11 calves. Fat pigs sold slowly at extremely dear trade, late high rates easily maintained. Best clean pigs to £6 7s 6d, Mains, Hatton; £5 15s, Towie-Barclay; £5 9s, Byth House; £10 4s (2), Blakeshouse (Mr Bain); £5 8s and £5 6s, Mill of Colp; £5 5s, Mains, Hatton; £4 15s, Everton, Rothienorman; £5 1s, Newton, Dunlugas; £4 19s, Mill of Colp; £4 18s, Mains, Hatton; £4 17