

Poultry and Dairy Products at Exposition

What "Small Produce" Means to the Modern Farmer, Appliances and Methods to Be Shown In Agricultural Palace at Panama-Pacific Fair, the Farm as a Manufacturing Plant.

(By Charles W. Stevenson.)

TAKING the farm as a manufacturing unit the value of the small produce rises into large national importance. It is not many years since J. Ogden Armour startled the country by a series of articles in the Saturday Evening Post on the use of the refrigerator car and its value to the farmers of the country. The growth of great cities while presenting problems of serious political import furnishes a vast market for the farmer. The increase of transportation lines and the facilities for marketing produce have added materially to the farmer's annual income. The well-managed farm has become in truth, a factory. Invention and machinery have become necessary adjuncts, and the telephone furnished a daily price list.

But as in the case with every advancing industry in a country densely populated, having direct and abundant railroad connections, the larger markets control prices. That this has been of immense advantage to the farmer the present high scale of prices of milk, butter, poultry and eggs testify. St. Louis, Chicago and New York prices on turkeys, as an illustration, during the holiday season, now control the table of the town-dweller throughout the whole Mississippi Valley. And where, twenty years ago, the market in the adjacent town controlled the price, per dozen of spring broilers, today the price is quoted, per pound, at an advance of 300 to 400 per cent, where, formerly, the farmer ten miles from a country town could not market the milk of his cows save by the laborious process of churning it into butter by primitive methods, now by means of the cream separator, the extracted values can be sold at stable market prices at the front gate. So that it has become profitably practical to pay attention to these by-products of the farm.

Two Results.

From these changes two results are apparent. Small factories are continually springing up to consume the dairy products of smaller growing farm areas; and country towns and small railroad stations have become shipping points for all kinds of farm products, especially poultry and eggs. Not only this, but the farm has become a factory for converting the raw material into the finished product, or advancing it part way toward completion for consumption. And again, reverting to the farm as a unit, the farm industry can no longer ignore these sources of income. Nor can the farmer refuse to keep abreast of the prices which prevail; and while the world's crop controls the price of cereals, domestic consumption and trade must always afford a minimum of domination in the several countries in the matter of small produce, albeit affected by the density of population and the growth of great cities. The law of supply and demand has more freedom of action and gives greater benefit.

It follows that a group of the exhibits in the coming Panama-Pacific International Exposition devoted to a showing of "Appliances and Methods Used in Agricultural Industries" of the character enumerated, must prove of decided advantage and great service to the farmers of the world. And it is to be mentioned that the farmers of the

United States may learn much from the display of European states, while South American countries have even a larger source of information in the progress of both.

Magnitude Shown.

A few figures on dairy products and the production of poultry and eggs in the United States, available from the thirteenth census, shows the magnitude of these industries. In 1909 the production of poultry, inclusive of chickens, guinea fowls, turkeys, geese, ducks, pigeons and peafowls, amounted to \$488,468,354; the value of fowls raised during the year reaching \$202,506,272, an increase of 47.9 per cent over the total value for ten years earlier. The production of eggs for the same year (1909) was 1,591,311,371 dozen. For this year this was a production of 5.31 fowls per capita and 17.3 dozen eggs per capita.

Again, the dairy industry for the United States, year 1909, reveals the following:

Cows kept for milk on farms, number	20,625,432
Cows kept for milk not on farms, number	1,170,338
Total	21,795,770

Milk produced on farms, gallons	5,813,699,474
Butter made on farms, number of pounds	994,650,610
Butter made in factories, pounds	624,764,653
Total	1,619,415,263
Cheese made on farms, pounds	9,405,864
Cheese made in factories, pounds	311,126,317
Total	320,532,181

Condensed milk produced, pounds	494,795,544
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International Displays.

Remembering that the Panama-Pacific is an International Exposition, and that the European nations by governmental or individual participation are to be present, the educative importance of these displays must rise in the public regard. Our international agricultural exchanges must continue under the natural laws of production in the great staples, but this class of farm industries in countries like Germany, France, Holland and England must have much to tell the farmers of the United States and the rest of the world. The industries are classified as follows:

GROUP 118.

Appliances and Methods Used In Agricultural Industries.

Class 567—Types of agricultural factories connected with farming; dairies; creameries; cheese factories, etc.

Class 568—Oil mills; margarine factories; grain elevators and appliances.

Class 569—Workshops for the preparation of textile fibres.

Class 570—Equipment for the breeding of birds and for the artificial hatching, raising or fattening of poultry. Poultry foods. Methods of and appliances for packing and transporting.

Class 571—Market gardening. Buildings and appliances for growing, gathering, packing and marketing vegetables. Processes and equipment employed in the forced culture of vegetables and plants, with specimens of products.

What in the United States is an ever-increasing domestic trade in the older countries mentioned enters into the foreign exchange, Holland, for example, selling its chief foreign shipments to its neighbors.

Farmer Ownership.

Taking Class 567, comprising dairies, creameries and cheese factories, the importance to the individual farmer lies in the fact that the tendency of the time is towards stock company ownership of all of these among the farmers themselves. In the State of Iowa the farmers principally own the creameries. And it is almost certain with the extension of the agricultural credit system, as operated in Germany, to the farmers of the United States, the ownership of these local factories by the farmers themselves will increase.

It becomes imperative therefore that the progressive farmer acquaint himself not only with the appliances applicable to the individual farm, but with those larger systems which are employed in the local factories now being planted adjacent to the farms. He has double interest in this class of displays, first in the machinery he can install on his own farm, and second in the best kind to install in the factory in which he may become a stockholder.

These are economic and political problems connected with this group of farm industries that are worthy of mention. The tendency of these small products of the farm must be to reduce its acreage, a condition which should be hailed as a civic boom. Not only does the intensive farming of the individual acre enlarge its production, but the increase of the country home adds stability to a nation's political life. The spread of this form of investigation and knowledge has a far-reaching effect and adds a force and value to the department of agriculture at an exposition that is above material benefits and commercial profit.

Farm as a Factory.

Nevertheless, it intensifies the farmer's consideration of the farm as a unit, a factory, if you will, to be operated in the light of the best business methods. Just how far the individual farmer may go in devoting land, time and capital to these phases of production will employ his highest business acumen and must be dependent upon not only the productive conditions of his individual acreage, but his relation to the immediate and remote markets. But it seems certain that, with cur-

rent prices, no farmer can refuse to include some portion of this kind of production in his scheme of making his own enterprise bring the best returns. Nor does it seem that the growth of individual dairy, poultry and vegetable farms will destroy this. In a sense it is a utilization of waste, in unoccupied and unproductive lands, waste in shattered grain, waste in the value of fodder and roughness and the marketable portion of the major crop. Yet, while this is true, failure to take advantage of modern machinery connected with these farm industries must render them a burden rather than a benefit.

Appliances and methods as shown in this group at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition must return especial benefit to every farmer who will attend. Manifestly, the exchange of ideas between the countries must result in greater reflective study throughout the world. The manufacturers who exhibit in this section will receive in return the commercial rewards of merit, the only basis of lasting trade. The application of electrical motors to farm machinery is constantly saving labor and liberalizing life upon the farm. A recent writer calls attention to the possibility of returning the loom to the home through the distribution of electrical power, thus solving many of the sweatshop and mill problems of the day. On the farm, it is certain, that no longer is there any portion of the total product beneath the consideration of the skilled and wealthy husbandman, and with increasing machines to do the work the disadvantages are disappearing. The one-crop farmer, drudging a vast field, belongs to the past.

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