

# FARM AND DAIRY & RURAL HOME



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas.

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country, but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham.

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## Old Country Markets are Opening to Our Poultry Products\*

Canada's Opportunity—Are we in a Position to take Advantage of it?—By W. A. Brown.

ONE result of the great war has been to cause an unprecedented demand for Canadian eggs on the British market. Great Britain is the greatest egg importing country in the world, the imports in the year 1913 amounting to 215,799,500 dozen. As would be expected, the war has seriously interrupted this trade. The supplies from Germany, Belgium, France, and Austria-Hungary have been absolutely cut off, while those from Russia, Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands, and other nearby countries have been greatly interfered with. Fortunately, Canada had a surplus this year, and this has assisted to some extent at least in offsetting the shortage on the British market.

Some twelve or fifteen years ago Canada shipped eggs in quantities to Great Britain, but with the increasing consumption at home, this trade gradually fell off. So rapidly, in fact, did consumption increase over production that during the six years previous to 1914 Canada imported eggs extensively, the maximum being reached in the fiscal year 1912-1913, when a total of 13,000,000 dozen were imported.

### Reduction Feared

High prices and a brisk demand, however, have had the usual effect. Production in Canada has increased so rapidly, particularly in the western provinces, that last year the supply was almost equal to the demand, while this year Canada, as intimated above, has had a surplus available for export. Had it not been for the unusual demand on the part of the British market, brought about by the great war, egg prices in Canada this year would have been somewhat lower than last. As it was early in March when prices dropped lower than usual and feed was high, many farmers threatened to sell off their stock. Fortunately, prices improved with the advent of the storage season, and while not many laying stock were

sold, it is said that for this reason many producers did not set as many eggs as they had intended.

Such developments as these in the east, combined with unusually low prices in the central west, do not make for stability in the poultry business of this country. If the industry is to develop as it should, Canadian poultrymen must take such action as is necessary to safeguard the situation.

Previously when Canada was shipping to the British market, Canadian eggs compared favor-

ably with eggs of only very ordinary quality. It is evident that if the poultry industry in Canada is to be a profitable undertaking, steps must be taken to place the Canadian product on the British market in such quantities and in such condition as will demand the highest possible prices.

There are tremendous possibilities for the development of the poultry industry in Canada. Canada has all the facilities for the production of high quality eggs. The poultry industry in this country at present is a mere fraction of

what it might be if advantages were taken of our present opportunities. According to the last United States census, there were more poultry in the single state of Missouri than in the whole of the Dominion of Canada. There is no reason why this record should not be equalled and excelled by any or all of the three great middle western provinces, Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan, to say nothing of the greatly increased production possible in Eastern Canada.

The poultry industry of the western provinces is yet in its infancy. It has been amply demonstrated, however, that not only is high summer egg production possible, but if properly housed, tended, and cared for, even the more tender varieties of poultry give profitable returns in the winter time. The western provinces, too, have an asset in the remarkable effect which the long summer days and the wealth of vegetable and animal life has upon the early maturity of the stock, that is denied the eastern provinces and our more southern neighbors.

All the facilities for a quantity far in excess of Canada's own requirements are here. Canada's greatness as an agricultural country must not be limited to her own immediate requirements. Her agricultural products are her greatest asset, and she must export, must so produce, prepare, grade, market and advertise her products in such a manner as will cause them to be in brisk demand.

(Concluded on page 15.)



Women Always Have Been, and Probably Always Will Be, the Great Poultry Raisers of Canada.

ably in the matter of quality with current receipts from other countries. In the interval, however, on account of the strenuous competition which they had to meet, marked improvement has taken place in the quality of the Danish, Irish, Dutch, and other nearby fresh receipts, while in Canada, with such prosperous conditions at hand, it is only recently that any decided improvement has occurred.

### Enter the Quality Competition

It is not in the interests of Canadian producers to compete on the British or any other of the world's markets with Russia, Austria-Hungary, Roumania, Egypt, and other foreign countries

\*An address delivered at the Provincial Winter Fair, Ouelph, Dec. 7th, by W. A. Brown, B.S.A., Chief of the Poultry Division, Live Stock Branch, Ottawa.