

egg trade has had the benefit of the experience of able men in Canada who have been in it for many years. The individual producer seldom realizes how greatly he is indebted to the skill, tenacity and ability of the experienced shippers of his products. Canadian eggs now come next to the best French eggs in value per dozen. They are ahead of all other foreign eggs in the British markets.

POULTRY.

I found fattened chickens in good demand in Great Britain. Chickens and turkeys should be sent from Canada with their crops and intestines thoroughly empty. They should be starved for not less than thirty six hours before being killed. They should not be drawn, and the heads should be left on. Those shipped in accordance with the bulletin which I issued from the Department of Agriculture last year, seem to have pleased the customers very well and paid the shippers.

FRUIT.

Our Canadian apple trade would bring into Canada, I think, twice as much money for the same number of barrels if the fruit was all carefully sorted as to size and quality, before it was packed. Small and blemished apples are seldom worth shipping at all; but the best value that can be realized out of them can be obtained if they are packed by themselves. A fine price and a growing trade can be got for uniformly sound, large apples, equally good throughout the whole barrel or box.

I think a package smaller than the barrel will begin to find favor in Great Britain. As yet the wholesale dealers say they have a preference for the barrel; but retail dealers and housekeepers interested in Canadian products, say they would prefer to have a smaller package—for instance, a box holding about a bushel.

There is more money for shippers of all classes of products in sending them properly and closely graded, than in sending some good, some inferior; some large, some small; some light, some heavy; under the same brand or in the same package.

PRESERVED FRUIT.

Fault was found with Canadian canned fruit, because in many instances different varieties of apples were mixed in the same tin. Sometimes an apple or other fruit in one can would be firm, while another would be soft. Sometimes also there would be fruit of different tints of color in the same can. These are all serious defects. Uniformity of quality in the one package and in the one lot is the call of the market everywhere; and for that class of goods only will the highest current market prices be obtained.

Birds vs. Weeds

By C. W. Nash, Toronto, Ont.

The farmers of Ontario as a class are as keenly alive to their own interests as any other body of business men. They generally give good value when they sell, and they expect and will have value for money they pay. But there seems to be a streak in human nature which prevents men from either seeing or properly appreciating services rendered to them which cost them nothing.

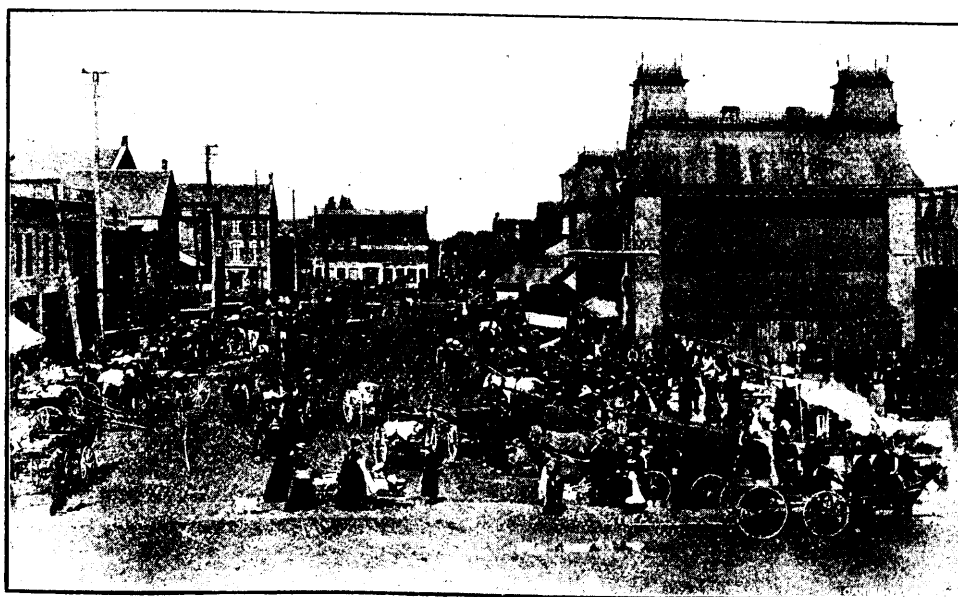
Year after year the farmers, fruit growers and gardeners suffer great loss from the depredations of insects, and pay out considerable sums for labor applied for the destruction of noxious weeds, and would, no doubt, be quite willing to pay much more to fully protect their crops from injury by these pests, if it could be done. Perfect immunity from insects and weeds can never be expected. We may, however, reduce the loss caused by them much below what it is at present, without the expenditure of any great amount of time or money, by availing ourselves of the assistance of the natural enemies of both of them.

The most valuable assistants we have in our struggle against the weeds and insects destructive to crops are the birds. Unfortunately of late years these have decreased very rapidly, owing principally to the persecution they have suffered in the settled districts during the nesting season. This has had the effect of driving them away from the cultivated fields and orchards, where they are most needed, for the seclusion of the wild lands where they can raise their young in comparative security. It is while raising their young that the birds would be of the greatest service in and about the cultivated lands, the quantity of insect food required by each young bird while growing being enormous.

It used to be the custom to divide birds into three classes with reference to the food they were supposed to eat, viz.: birds of prey, insect eaters, and seed eaters. No such distinctions can properly be made; all birds, even the hawks and owls, feed more or less upon insects, and nearly all the so-called seed-eating birds raise their young entirely upon insects. After the young have reached maturity, and the approach of cold weather reduces the insect supply, birds of this class display their usefulness by helping to clear the fields of the seeds of weeds as they ripen, and all through the winter they continue the work of harvesting this most objectionable crop.

NATIVE SPARROWS.

Among the most familiar birds that spend the summer in and about the farm are the native sparrows, commonly



Bytown Farmers' Market, Ottawa, Ont.