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A. I have just read over some figures,—perhaps you were not here at the time—to show the worth of our home market. The export of eggs has declined from over one million dollars in 1902 to something like \$26,746 worth last year. And that is, as I have stated, in the face of an increased home production as well as a certain amount of imports. It goes to show the rapidly increasing value of our home market, a home market that our farmers are not taking advantage of to the extent that they should. For after all, the great law of demand and supply regulates the price, and there is not the slightest doubt that the high price of eggs and poultry of superior quality is due to the fact that there is not enough supply. I can give you the imports for last year when we imported \$439,000 worth of eggs, and poultry and game to the extent of \$68,000 worth, and fowls (domestic breeds) \$23,000. Another proof that we do not supply enough for the requirement of our home market. After all it is a reflection on our farmers that they do not supply enough of eggs and poultry and that we have actually to import to satisfy the home demand.

By Mr. Edwards:

Q. Cannot the United States produce poultry and eggs cheaper than we can because of the advantage they have in possessing a mild climate?

A. If they did it might follow that prices would be correspondingly lower.

Q. Don't you think that they have cheaper prices for the reason that they have a milder climate?

A. There are doubtless various climatic conditions in the United States. I cannot speak authoritatively of the results of the climatic conditions of the United States, but allow me to speak of a striking condition in Canada that may go to answer your questions. I had a visit from a British Columbia gentleman the other day, and he said, 'We have a mild climate which is particularly favourable to the raising of poultry.' I replied, 'You ought then to have a large supply of poultry and eggs.' He said, 'So we have.' Now, it is an interesting fact that notwithstanding the mild climate which is certainly favourable to a large output of eggs and poultry I can assure you that the prices in British Columbia are the highest we have in Canada. Eggs were sold in the towns and cities of British Columbia last winter as high as 75 cents and even 95 cents per dozen. I have letters bearing that out. In Ottawa the highest market price was 60 cents a dozen, and at the Experimental Farm we sold at 50 cents. Apparently in the case of British Columbia a genial climate had no effect on the high value of eggs and poultry.

Q. I asked the question because of your remark that the figures regarding the importation of eggs were to a certain extent a reflection on the farmers. I do not agree with you in that. I think it is a reflection on the Government and not on the farmers. It was a reflection on the past Government, and will be a reflection on this Government just so long as they permit the United States to ship eggs in here and to pay a fraction of the duty which they ask us to pay if we want to send eggs over there. In other words, we have been handing over our market to the producer of eggs on the other side of the line, and it is not fair to blame the farmers for not supplying this market?

A. I do not mean to reflect on the individual farmer, for there are exceptions as I have shown, but I do blame the farmers for not catering in sufficient numbers to the high priced markets. We will put it in this way:—It is a reflection on the producers of the country if they do not produce enough, of the quality to merit their obtaining the high prices which, I think, should be an inducement to farmers to go more into egg producing and poultry raising of the better quality than they do. I have not the slightest objection to the Government giving the farmers all the aid they need. I am not in a position nor would I presume to reflect upon the present or any Government. I am inclined to think that the inexorable law of demand fixes the price of the supply. I think the farmers have only to produce what is so much required in quantity sufficient and they will if they so do surely realize the enor-