Simply because the farms of the country have not supplied eggs in the same proportion as the industrial centres and Western prairie lands have been supplied with people. The demand at home has increased more rapidly than the supply. Some say the falling off in Canada's egg supply is due to the cold, unfavorable climate. This cannot be so, for in Russia with its frozen regions to the north, we see that in 1900 the exports amounted to 2,845 millions of eggs, valued at $41,954,500, as against only 1,686 millions of eggs in 1896, valued at $14,711,033. A hen would surely lay as well in Canada as in Russia.

Change From an Exporter to an Importer.

From the above statements it is an easy matter to see that Canada, with regard to eggs, has changed in the last ten years from an exporting to an importing nation. And all because of that home market. The farmers' wives and daughters have a bonanza here at home, in their own country towns and cities, which, for purposes of common use are consuming cold storage eggs, but which for fresh table use must depend upon the neighboring farming community. There is now just protection enough in the duty of 3 cents per dozen to keep back a deluge of American eggs, but under Reciprocity the barriers would be down, and this country, which during the past year imported over two million dozen eggs from the United States would be literally buried by the shipments from other countries, principally the Republic south of us. It would mean, most assuredly, lower prices for eggs in Canada. Take, for instance, the 2,378,640 dozen eggs imported into Canada last year. They bore a duty of 3 cents per dozen, or in all $71,359.20, which, had there been no tariff, would have been taken out of the Canadian market. In other words, the sellers of eggs in Canada were at least $71,359.20 richer last year through the duty of 3 cents per dozen on foreign eggs.

The Vital Question.

The question then resolves itself into the following proposition: In spite of the present protective tariff of 3 cents per dozen on eggs, over two million dozen are coming into Canada per year; the only thing that saves prices from tumbling three cents per dozen right now is the protective duty. It is only to be expected then, that under the Reciprocity agreement the imports of eggs into Canada would be very much larger and that prices would be decidedly lower.

A Preposterous Proposition.

Canada laying herself open to a free supply of eggs from the United States for it would be a most preposterous deal for the farmers of this country to sanction. Eggs are being produced in increasing volume all the year in the United States, which has a wider variety of climate than has Canada. In the cold winter months, when supplies in Canada and the Northern States are scarce, the Southern districts of our neighbors' territory are selling vast quantities of eggs from their warmly situated poultry farms. The