



OLD ENGLAND WANTS OUR TURKEYS.

BIG SHIPMENTS THIS FALL OF FOWL FOR THE CHRISTMAS TRADE.

MR. R. BLACKWELL, of Park, Blackwell & Co., Toronto, is catering to the London, England, demand for Christmas turkeys. The last week in November Mr. Blackwell shipped 30,000 fowl, turkeys, geese and chickens to the English market. Canadian fowl bid fair to become as much in favor with John Bull as Canadian cheese. Although the profits are not large at present, the trade gives promise of increasing popularity, and that soon.

The fowl are gathered from all over Ontario. They are rigidly inspected before they are shipped, by the representatives of the English firms here.

One of Mr. Blackwell's orders was to supply an old country firm with 5,000 turkeys, 5,000 geese, and 5,000 ducks. The largest portion of this contract was filled in the Midland district, Messrs Kennedy & Nelson, of Peterboro, collecting about 7,000.

The fowl are shipped entire, with feathers, head and feet, and are not drawn.

Messrs. Kennedy & Nelson, who handled the contract for this district, are left with quite a large number of fowl on their hands, as notwithstanding that the most stringent

directions were issued in regard to the killing of the birds, a large number came in which were not handled in the manner called for in the contract.

In order to travel well and be acceptable to the English public, the fowl must be starved twenty four hours before being killed, thus leaving no food whatever in the crop, and it is imperative that they be bled only from the roof of the mouth. In killing them the mode usually adopted is to hang the birds over a line by their feet and draw a sharp penknife along the roof of the mouth, allowing them to then bleed to death. All turkeys must come up to the standard weight of ten pounds.

On December 4th twenty-five tons of turkeys were bought in the Cobourg market for a shipment to the English market.

Mr. A. J. King, Toronto, has shipped to Liverpool over 225 tons of turkeys, geese and chickens; the lot made up a train of twenty-two cars, no less than twelve cars going from Ingersoll. Mr. King has sold this quantity to the largest dealers in England, one buyer alone taking 15,000 birds. This shipment went from Portland by steamship Mongolian on the 3rd December. Mr. King disagrees with those who say the present is not a good time to ship poultry. Better prices, he says, are to be obtained now than later. Mr. King sailed from New York on Saturday, 5th Dec., by steamship Campania.