

EGG MONEY

The Rightful Perquisite of the Women on the Canadian Farms.

The egg market in Canada is a pure, national asset. Egg prices here are not dependent on an export demand as they were ten years ago; they are entirely due to the home demand, and they were never as high as in the past two years.

What the Home Market Has Done for Eggs.

Strictly fresh laid eggs range in price from 40¢ to 60¢ per dozen in Canada during the winter season. In such markets as Toronto, Montreal and Hamilton the farmer's wife can get, on an average of 45 to 50 cents per dozen for fresh laid eggs between the months of November and February. And during the other months she gets on an average of 25 to 30 cents per dozen.

On no other commodity has the rapidly developing home market of Canada had such effect as upon eggs. The high prices that prevail to-day in Canada for eggs are due to the rapid growth of our industrial centres, and to the fact that a protective duty of 2 cents per dozen has prevented an overwhelming influx of United States eggs from flooding and depressing the Canadian market.

Reciprocity and the Women Folk.

Under a system of free trade in natural products with the United States, the homes of the Canadian farmer would be sacrificed through the injury that would surely be done to the egg market. Wives and daughters now reap the profits of the egg sales, and the results are seen in the form of many an extra comfort and brightening touch about the country homes. By taking money out of the purses of these women-folk the Reciprocity Agreement would be exerting its worst influence—that of working against the best interests of the farm homes of Canada.

The Poultry Yard a Lucrative Department.

One of the most lucrative departments of farming in Canada to-day is the poultry yard. Because of the steady increase in the consumptive demands of Canadians, the export trade of the Dominion in eggs has dwindled from nearly twelve million dozen in 1902 to less than a hundred thousand dozen in the fiscal year ending March, 1911. There has been with this decrease in exports a corresponding increase in imports, especially from the United States. Our imports for consumption in 1902 were 772,572 dozen, and in 1911 the amount imported was 2,373,640 dozen. In spite of the protective duty of 2 cents per dozen Canada's demand for eggs is so great that she is importing about twenty-five times as many eggs as she is exporting. Why not preserve this great national asset for the wives and daughters of our farmers, and thus add to the domestic happiness of the land?

Canada's Increased Consumption.

The history and present condition of the egg industry in Canada