

PREFACE.

On farms throughout Canada there are nondescript fowls that are a small source of income. They receive little care. In the spring of the year they produce eggs that are sold at a low price. Their chickens are marketed with difficulty.

'Profitable Poultry Farming' is written to show how increased profit can be realized from utility-bred, well-cared for farm poultry. Poultry farming on a farm can be developed in Canada with much profit. The fowls should receive the attention afforded the larger stock; they should be as well housed; from 200 to 1,000 chickens should be reared annually.

There is a great demand in Canada for fatted chickens and fresh table eggs. The market requirements show a pronounced advancement within the last few years; the consumption of chickens and eggs has increased; the prices paid by the trade have improved.

A most striking development has been the crate-fatted chicken trade—a business introduced in 1898 by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying. In that year crate-fatted chickens were first forwarded to Great Britain. The reports received state that the chickens arrived in fine condition; pleased the trade well in every respect, and were sold at good prices. Canadian fatted chickens have been received favourably in Great Britain. The value of the poultry shipped to Great Britain has increased from \$18,992 in 1896 to \$238,047 in 1902. The latter sum represents only 2 per cent of the value of the poultry imported into the United Kingdom from other countries.

This Department of Agriculture was asked by one dealer in Manchester to supply the names of Canadian exporting firms who could ship him 3,000 cases of chickens (36,000 chickens) a week. There is an almost unlimited market in Great Britain for Canadian fatted chickens.

When home consumers realized the improved quality of fatted chickens, a home demand was created. This demand has increased rapidly. There is every indication of a substantial yearly increase in the home consumption of fatted chickens.

An important trade is the new-laid egg trade. This is most profitable during the winter months. December 1st, 1902, this Department was offered for strictly new-laid eggs 10 cents a dozen until the end of last month.

Poultry farming on a farm will be found a profitable branch of agriculture. The business should be managed by those who have direct control of the farm. Poultry farming can also be conducted in connection with any of the minor branches of agriculture. There will be a greater profit realized from the business when the utility type of breeding fowl is kept; when the pullets are fed for winter egg-production; when the cockerels are specially fatted for market.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OTTAWA, March 1st, 1903.

F. C. HARE,
Chief of Poultry Division.