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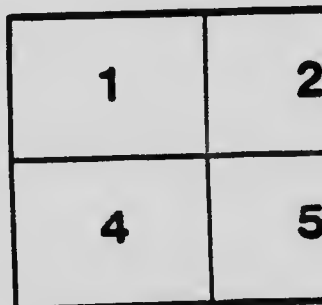
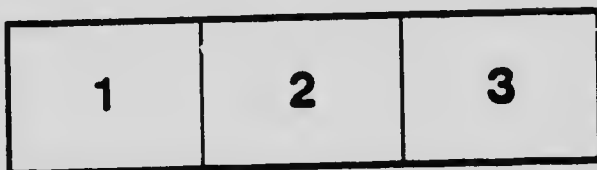
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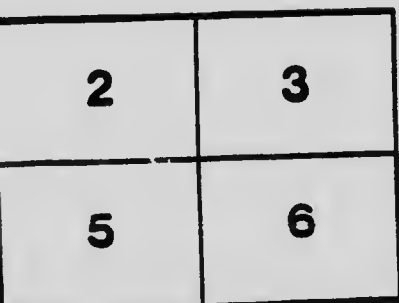
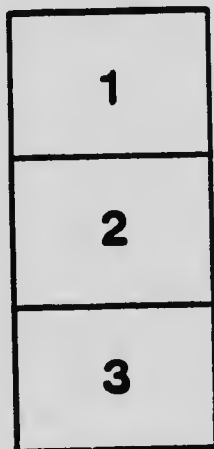
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EGG MONEY

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 3 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 2,378,640 dozen. In spite of the protective duty of 3 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

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can best be shown by the following statements of exports and imports in the years 1902 and 1911:

IMPORTS.

Imported into Canada for home consumption in 1902 with value:

	Quantity	Value.
United States	192,802 dozen	\$105,755
Other Countries	9,779 "	682
Total	202,581	\$106,437

Since 1902 Canada has taken eggs from Hong Kong and Great Britain, both of which would have equal privileges with the United States under the Reciprocity Agreement.

The exports of eggs in the fiscal year 1911 for home consumption were:

	Quantity	Value
United States	2,212,727 dozen	\$417,857
Great Britain	12,740 "	2,118
Hong Kong	2,072 "	3,200
Other Countries	90,861 "	14,881
Total	2,317,399	\$437,056

EXPORTS.

The following statement of Canada's exports of eggs shows conclusively that it is the home demand for this commodity that determines its price.

For fiscal year 1909:

	Quantity	Value
Great Britain	1,313,225 dozen	\$109,024
United States	287,115 "	35,784
Other Countries	43,818 "	6,744
Total	1,644,158	\$151,552

Fiscal year 1911:

	Quantity	Value
Great Britain	1,057 dozen	\$2,422
United States	24,688 "	6,327
Other Countries	69,490 "	10,891
Total	75,195	\$19,640

Whereas in 1902 only a few thousand dozens were shipped to Britain, and Canada's exports were entirely dependent on that export trade, and by this country imports more eggs from Britain than she exports, it is clear that in a large measure the operations of the Market in the colonies have been controlled so that no eggs are concerned.

Not Due to the Climate

"Why," you ask, "have Canada's exports in eggs dropped so rapidly?"

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 1909 the exports amounted to 2,845 millions of eggs, valued at \$1,954,509, as against only 1,686 millions of eggs in 1899, valued at \$1,711,033. 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 economy, usage are consuming egg 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 2,375,000 dozen eggs imported into Canada last year. They bore a duty of 3 cents per dozen, or in all \$71,355.00, which had there been no tariff, would have been taken out of the Canadian purse. In other words, the sellers of eggs in Canada were at least \$71,355.00 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 a would be a most preposterous deal for the farmer 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

immense cold storage plants owned by the powerfully organized distributing agencies of the States are capable of preserving until one of dozens of eggs and shipping them to any market, with all the greatest advantages. In this way, the markets of Canada, so high and firm in the winter months, would be subjected to the enormous pressure of cheap eggs from such centres as Chicago. Instead of the Canadian farmer being in the position to debate and control his own prices, he would lose his independence, and he would under the lead of the trusts over his border. His home-made market would be gone, and he would lose his home-made prices.

United States Would Possess the Eggs

Under a system of free trade in natural products, there is no doubt that the United States would supply Canada with most of the eggs so would also. But Great Britain, Hong Kong and Russia, who now send eggs into Canada over the tariff wall, would also have free admission to our markets under the R. I. protective agreement. It has been pointed out above what a large producer Russia has become, and it is well known that in the warmer climates of the Orient, such as China, the surplus production is sufficient to feed the land many times over. Chinese eggs have been entering Canada steadily during the past five years, and would be only too ready to join in the rush that would concentrate upon Canada in the event of free trade. Here again would be an agency to work havoc in the home market. The volume of egg imports from the United States would be interdicted by the unwillingness of suppliers from these other favored countries.

Loss of Revenue of Over \$70,000.

Besides losing such substantial, lucrative trade in eggs, the farmers, through the adoption of the Protective pact, would lose the benefit to the nation of over \$70,000 per year. This \$70,000 simply represents the expenditure upon foreign products, and indirectly are helping to finance the great public works of Canada. In short, the rights of the Canadian producer, by such payments as this \$70,000, are under the present protective tariff, contributing to the welfare of this country, which is predominantly a farmer's country.

What the Deal Amounts to.

Do the farmers of Canada wish to give away their home-made products, and by so doing meet the following results:

- (1) The subtraction of at least 3 cents per dozen from the prices which their wives and daughters now receive.
- (2) The disappointment among the women in the farm homes and the consequent lack of former cosmetics and bright adornments.
- (3) The loss of that independent position of controlling one's own home market and the humiliation of having a fine economic position undermined by cheap foreign eggs.
- (4) The loss to the national treasury of \$70,000 per year, and the resultant reduction of that amount from expenditures on services of use to the farmer and others in the country.



