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POULTRY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

By the Editor.

Part I.

INTRODUCTION.

The poultry industry of British Columbia has received but little attention from any source and that in spite of the fact that each year has marked a decided increase in the value of poultry and eggs imported to supply local demands. This may be partly explained by the fact that all our agricultural interests are but in their infancy, a circumstance incident upon the settlement of any new country. The rancher has been obliged to devote his attention to clearing his land, erecting his buildings, and in a general way laying the foundations upon which he hopes to build successfully in the future. These conditions are however rapidly changing, the thickly wooded country is giving way before the pluck and enterprise of the hardy settlers and where we once saw the giants of the forest, now we may see fields of waving grain; the log cabin has been replaced by the modern farm house and our province is rapidly assuming the appearance of a prosperous agricultural country. With this natural change there must also come a change on the part of the rancher. He will naturally consider the question of supply and demand. He will look over the field and see what particular line of production needs attention first, and what may be of still greater importance to him what will pay the best. It is with these thoughts in mind that the present series of articles have been undertaken, the intention being to carefully consider the question of "Poultry in

British Columbia" in several different phases, with a view of helping the present poultry ranchers in their work, and perchance leading others to add poultry raising to their present farm work.

THE DEMAND.

The first question that naturally suggests itself is this. What is the demand for poultry and eggs? There is scarcely any better way of answering this than by turning to the question of imports, and ascertaining the quantity of poultry and eggs brought into the Province annually. In the four years from June, 1888, to June, 1892, we find their value placed at the enormous sum of \$262,549 this is an average of \$65,637 per year. A snug little sum to have found its way into the pockets of our own ranchers. The home production during this time, although small, would considerably swell the above total. More than this the amount required each year is rapidly increasing, thus making an annual demand of very large proportions. \$65,000 is too much money to go out of the country each year unless there be some good reason why poultry and eggs cannot be raised here. Let us consider now,

THE COUNTRY.

British Columbia presents us many natural advantages for successful poultry raising as any other country. The rain fall at certain seasons is one of the minor difficulties that is easily provided for by a little care and forethought. In breeding solid white birds for exhibition purposes care must be taken to provide shelter from the hot summer sun or there will come as a natural result the yellow tinge so undesirable in white birds. One or two breeders who have given the matter careful attention have decided that the nature of the soil in some places has

a peculiar effect on the yellow legs of birds but of this we shall have more to say in another article. The rancher who can give his fowls access to a free range has rare feeding ground on which the good forager will find a large share of its daily food and many other requisites to make life happy. The occasional loss of a hen will not be any serious consideration in such an arrangement. In a general way it might be said British Columbia is "all right" for poultry raising. The small difficulties met with may be easily overcome; and the great general advantages are of such a character as to assure success so far as country and climate are concerned.

[To be continued.]

●●● WILL YOU JOIN?

This paper contains considerable information regarding the Langshan fowl which will be of interest to all. If you breed this particular variety you should join the American Langshan Club. The following is from the introduction to their last Catalogue. "Our club leads all other Clubs. Let us maintain this proud position. Let every worthy breeder enroll himself on its roster. While the Langshan heads the list as a general all purpose breed yet let us keep on and improve it if possible, looking for a still higher ideal as to fancy points, and by careful selection still further develop its usefulness in a practical direction.

The Club presents its list of members with pride, and takes pleasure in recommending all who appear in the list as breeders of pure stock, and to assure the public that stock and eggs purchased of them will be first class. We trust that breeders of Langshans who are not in the club will see the advisability