

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

(LIVE STOCK BRANCH).

POULTRY-KEEPING ON A CITY LOT.

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In recent years probably no one topic has caused so much discussion or elicited so many diverse explanations as to its origin and solution as that of the "high cost of living." It is our present intention to endeavour to show how this problem may be partly met or solved by the "keeping of poultry on the city lot, back yard, or garden."

Much pleasure and profit are oftentimes afforded householders by keeping a few fowls, whereby they can secure fresh, wholesome eggs, and now and again the best meat obtainable, by killing off their surplus stock.

In any city there are very few yards so small or so situated that a few fowls could not be profitably kept. When considering such a question, the chief points to be remembered are sunlight, reasonable space, shade, and good drainage. There are, certainly, other points almost as important, but the above are those that should be mainly considered at the outset.

Quite a few would-be poultry-keepers are deterred oftentimes by the fear that the space at their disposal is not large enough. True, a back yard or garden only a few feet square is not of sufficient area to permit of the profitable rearing of stock, but providing the utmost care is taken as to cleanliness and attention, there is no reason why a few hens should not be successfully kept.

LOCATION OF HOUSE AND YARD.

When building, always endeavour to locate the house as far from the dwelling of owner as possible. (We refer now to where it is proposed to keep fowls in the ordinary back yard of, say, 50 or 60 feet wide by perhaps 30 to 50 feet deep.) There are good reasons for this. Chief among these are those of a sanitary nature, and that the dwelling-house may not obstruct sunlight entering the pen or house of fowls.

Always enclose the yard with wire netting, and this to be not less than 6 feet high. Where wire is not used and the fowls allowed to run through your own and neighbours' yards, gardens, or front lawns, unpleasant consequences invariably arise.

If the lot is surrounded by a board fence, a wire netting 2 or 3 feet wide may be strung along the top of the fence, securing the same to scantling or poles nailed to fence.

If the owner desires to use part of the yard for a vegetable-garden as well, a dividing fence of netting should be put up, and by having the whole lot wired the fowls may be allowed access to the garden after the vegetables have been removed. This will afford the owner an opportunity to clean up and spade over the poultry-run in the meantime. A good stiff broom should be used for sweeping, and air-slaked lime should be strewn over the run before it is spaded.