

## POULTRY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

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BY THE EDITOR.

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Part II.

In the preceding article we considered the question of "The Demand" and "The Country," now let us see what is actually being done. In the last report of the Department of Agriculture we find among other questions asked the "Correspondents" in different parts of the province the two following, Section 11, Poultry. (a) Is this industry entered into to any extent and with any system? (b) What is the average price of eggs? Fifty-nine answers were received to these questions. To the first the answers were divided as follows: two replied "Largely;" three, "Only for home use;" four, "Fair extent;" six, "Entirely neglected;" eight, "Considerable extent;" and thirty-six, "Not extensively." The average price received for eggs for the whole province was thirty-five cents per dozen. This summary gives a birdseye view of the situation and allows us to form some definite conclusions as to what could be done. It would seem as though certain sections of the province are too far from any market to make poultry raising profitable, but there are still parts enough left where it might be taken up with profit. The districts adjacent to Victoria, Vancouver, Nanaimo and New Westminster, are certainly all right and can be worked to good advantage. It will undoubtedly be some time before there will be many large ranches devoted exclusively to the raising of market poultry, but there is no reason why, in the near future, there should not be a great many ranchers who will make poultry raising an important branch of their farm work. The great question to them is, Will it pay? This can best be determined by what is being done. On another page under the heading, "No Money in Hens," is given one man's account, and the FANCIER will endeavor to give more experiences along the same line, the great difficulty in doing so being that very few ranchers keep an actual account so at the end of the year do not know what the result has been. We shall be glad to hear from any one in British Columbia along this line, whether the result has been good or bad.

In the Agricultural Report, under Section 10, Live Stock, the following questions are asked. (a) Are people general-

ly going in for improved breeds of stock? (b) State what in your estimation are the best breeds in your district of poultry. In answer to the first, thirty-one said "Yes," and four said "No." This is a significant fact for the breeders of thoroughbred poultry to bear in mind, as it indicates an advance along lines that are progressive and that call for A 1 stock. In answer to the second as to best breeds the list is headed by the Plymouth Rocks, which are mentioned by thirty, the Brown Leghorns following with twenty-five; Black Spanish, six; Brahmas, three; while the Wyandotte, Houdan, Cochin, Leghorn and Plymouth Rock crossed, and Dunghill close the list with one each. While the question of "Best breed" is still an open one, it is evident the majority in this case have not made any mistake in their choice. A general purpose fowl, or a great layer is undoubtedly what most of ranchers want and will find most profitable. The field is open; the chances are good, and it only remains for live, energetic men and women to take up this industry and by hard work push it through to a successful issue. The FANCIER stands ready to do all it can to help in the work.

## THE GARDEN OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

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ANDREW G. MALSTEN, IN NORTHWEST HORTICULTURIST.

The town of Chilliwack located on the Frazier river fifty miles west of Vancouver and New Westminster, and twenty-five miles on a straight line from Sumas City, Washington, is the center of a rich agricultural country. The great Sumas Prairie extending from the boundary to within six miles of Chilliwack, will, when the Frazier is dyked so as to stop the June overflow, be one of the greatest dairy and stock countries in British Columbia. All the high and level plateau extending for miles on the east, west and south side of Chilliwack is called the Chilliwack country, or simply Chilliwack. The roads leading out into the country in all directions from Chilliwack are in a very fine condition, high and level, and mostly covered with fine gravel and sand. The country is well settled up. The farm buildings as a general rule are well built and painted; presenting an attractive appearance. Good schools are kept ten months in the year, irrespective of distance and location. Good school houses, painted, and

of uniform architecture are built about three miles apart.

Mixed farming is mostly carried on, as grain, dairy, stock and fruit growing. Hops have lately been set out. Also some attention has lately been given to apinry. Mr. J. S. Smith near to Chilliwack having 100 stands of bees.

A daily steamer leaves Chilliwack every morning for New Westminster, and stage and ferry connects at Harrison Station, on the C. P. R. R., for Vancouver.

Fruit growing and hops will without a doubt be the main industry of this part of the Province. There are many young and enterprising fruit growers here. Many orchards have lately been set out. Though it is true that there are even here some "genius home" who will stand in the way of the country by letting their orchards go to rack and ruin. The fellow who "knows all about it, who has had practical experience all his life," whose cranium has been so absorbed and dried up by his own little conceited ideas that it cannot absorb any knowledge from other sources; whose orchard is covered with vermin and moss, who thinks it does not pay to raise fruit because there is no market anyway; the fellow who planted seedlings instead of fruit trees,—Yet the British Columbia board has found a remedy. The fiat has gone forth. These fellows must either clean up their orchards or cut them down. Mr. R. M. Palmer, of Victoria, the inspector of this district is now going over the country and these fellows must come to time.

When rightly understood and attention and care given, and trees adapted to the soil and climate are set out, the Chilliwack country is as fine a section for fruit growing as there is on the Pacific coast.

.....Holdsworth, Macpherson & Co. of Sydney, N. S. W., recently landed a large shipment of Hearnson's Incubators of various sizes suitable for all classes of breeders. The poultry interest is on the advance in that section of the country.

.....It is in shipping hens to market that the greatest loss occurs. It may be supposed that but few persons would be so unwise as to send live fowls to market during hot days, but a visit to commission houses will show that hundreds of coops arrive, even with the heat well near 100 degrees, and that too with the fowls crowded, as well as but imperfectly supplied with water. The consequence is that there is sometimes a loss of nearly one-third from death, with also a loss of weight of those that survive.—Chicago Times.