

## 1.—THE POULTRY INDUSTRY.

Throughout the Province of Alberta, in fact all Western Canada at all seasons of the year there is an almost unlimited demand for poultry products. This is indicated by the enormous importations that are made annually from the eastern provinces, the United States, and even from Australia. With the prices of dressed poultry ranging from 15c to 25c per pound for good quality, and eggs from 18c to 60c per dozen, there is every inducement in the matter of market for a greater interest in the production of poultry products. During the winter months of 1909 and 1910, fresh eggs were selling at from 50c to 60c per dozen. The lowest price was reached the last week of April and the first week of May, when they retailed at 20c per dozen. By the middle of May the price had again risen 5c per dozen, gradually increasing as the season advanced. It is estimated that the Canadian hen laid 125,000,000 dozen eggs in 1910. In the production of this amount, the Alberta hen plays a most insignificant part. The same will apply to the supply of dressed poultry.

On investigation at many points throughout the province, it is found that in some districts the farmers themselves are the largest purchasers of bacon, condensed milk, butter and eggs at the local stores. They are so engrossed with the larger departments of farming that they lose sight of the market demands for food products. The western farmers are growing the grain for the farmers of the eastern province to convert into bacon, butter, cheese, and poultry products, and ship these back to the farmer and other citizens of the western province to consume. If this is profitable to the eastern producers who have to pay transportation and a considerable advance on the price the Alberta grain grower receives, how much more profitable should it be to the Alberta farmer who has the grain at first cost and the market at his door. This surely demonstrates the advisability of turning the coarse products of the farm into finished products of high value easily placed on the market and thus securing a large portion of the highly increased market value which the double freight charges now cause.

As the province develops the market demands will also grow as a high percentage of the incoming population will for some time be consumers rather than producers. In all likelihood it will be a great many years before the province will produce sufficient eggs and poultry to meet its own requirements. Apart from this there need be no fear for the future as there is a market demand in British Columbia for any surplus there may be. In 1909 the importation of poultry products to this province amounted to \$2,447,500, which was increased in 1910 by more than a half million dollars. Owing to the geographical situation of the province of British Columbia it is the natural outlet, and with the completion of the transcontinental railroads now under construction this province will have access to the best markets of the Dominion. With satisfactory prices and markets, with grain at first cost, with climatic and other conditions so favourable, and with the province so well adapted to mixed farming, poultry keeping should be profitable to all who undertake it in a practical way. It should be doubly so to