

CLAIMS OF COURTENAY AND COMOX DISTRICT

good. A piece of burnt land sown with grass seed will become a tangled mass of vegetation within a year. Cattle fatten on the native grasses and vetches in a wonderfully short time.

The poultry industry has not as yet received anything like the attention it deserves in this district, which is admirably adapted to it. The poultry farmers at present here cannot begin to supply the local demand and the incoming settler should certainly give this branch of farming his serious consideration. Statistics showing the cost of starting a poultry farm and the profits to be expected may be found in other publications, but roughly it may be said that a poultry farmer who does the work of the farm himself, should obtain an annual return of 20% to 30% on the amount of capital invested. Moreover, poultry farming under the conditions here does not demand expert knowledge so much as intelligent care and attention, and it affords perhaps the best opportunity of an outdoor life at his own home for the man who wishes to live such a life but has no previous experience of farming.

The Comox farmers are served by two co-operative associations, the Comox Creamery and the Comox Co-operative Association. The Comox Creamery was founded in 1902 for the purpose of manufacturing and selling butter. In 1912 the amount of share capital was \$4,000, divided into \$10 shares, on which a dividend of 5% is paid. An amount of 4 cents per pound is deducted for expenses and the balance paid to the farmer. Any balance remaining of the amount deducted for expenses is divided as a bonus. In 1912, 118,779 pounds of butter were made and sold at an average price to the farmer after deducting the 4 cents) of 33 2-3 cents per lb. As the oil test is used this price is equal to 3 or 4 cents higher on the Babcock test. The highest price to the farmer in 1912 was 39 cents per pound, and the lowest 30 cents per pound.

The Comox Co-operative Association has a store in Courtenay, through which the farmer may sell his produce. The prices given below are furnished by the manager of the association.

Prices to the farmer:—Beef, 12 cents dressed weight; mutton, 7 cents live weight; pork, 11 cents live weight; veal, 9 cents live weight; dressed poultry, 18 to 22 cents live weight; early vegetables, lettuce, 6 to 7 cents per head; peas, 10 cents per lb.; marrowfat beans, 7½ cents per lb.; cucumbers, 10 cents each; carrots, 4 cents per lb. Fruit: apples, \$1.75 to \$2.25 per box; strawberries, 10 to 15 cents per lb.; raspberries, 10 cents per lb. Potatoes, average price about \$20 per ton; eggs, 25 cents to 75 cents per dozen, average price about 36 cents; pigs 6 weeks old, \$5.