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PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.2  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (LIVE STOCK BRANCH).

## 4 (MANAGEMENT OF GEESE.

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IVEN favourable surroundings, geese are the easiest of all domestic fowls to handle. Where sufficient green pasture and water are available, this class of fowls can be kept very cheaply in this Province. As yet, however, very few geese are being kept. Quite a large number of cold-storage geese are imported into the Province during the winter months to supply the demand. There is apparently no reason, outside lack of interest, why more geese should not be bred.

## BREEDS OF GEESE.

The most profitable are the Toulouse, Embden, African, Chinese, and Canada (or wild) geese. Of the above, the first two breeds named are the most popular. The standard weights are: Adult ganders, 20 lb.; adult geese, 18 lb.; young ganders, 18 lb.; geese, 16 lb. The African weights are as for the previous two breeds. Actually, the weights of the stock kept by the average farmer are in most cases a few pounds less than standard requirements. The Chinese geese are about 6 lb. lighter per bird than the others. The wild goose averages about 10 to 12 lb. for gander and 8 to 10 lb. for geese.

## DESCRIPTION OF BREEDS.

Toulouse, grey and white in colour, are probably the best layers of the three heavy breeds; not such good mothers as the Embden. Ordinarily they do not mate as early in the year as the South African and Embdens, and will generally mate with less females than the other two breeds. For the production of green geese or goslings for early market they are perhaps not quite so good as the others, for, although the goslings attain to a large size, they are not quite so rapid in "plumping." However, when the earliest or first eggs laid are fertile, the additional goslings will eventually prove them as profitable as the other breeds.

The Embden or Bremen geese are pure white in plumage, are fair layers, and splendid sitters and mothers. Like the Toulouse, the ganders are rather slow in mating, and early in the season infertile eggs are often laid. The goslings, however, are quick growers, "plump" well, and make excellent "green geese." They are generally tamer than the other breeds. Another advantage is the fact that the white feathers fetch more per pound than the grey or brown.

The African geese, which are distinguished by the protuberance or "knob" between or just below the eyes, are of greyish-brown plumage, and more pugnacious than the other breeds. They mate early, and on the average the geese will lay more fertile eggs than the others. They are nearly as good layers as the Toulouse, and their young grow fast and will be ready to market quite as early as the Embden.