

## Poultry Farming on Vancouver Island

S. G. Hanson, Nanaimo Dist., B.C.

About seven years ago I bought a farm on the sea coast—a most lovely place. It had been neglected badly, however, and a good deal of money had to be spent on it before a living could be made out of it. More land had to be cleared, the whole place fenced, roads were to make, a water supply had to be put in, and buildings were to be erected. My intention when I bought it was to use this property for mixed farming.

A month or two after buying the place, I met a man who talked to me about poultry farming. He said there was 100 per cent. profit in the business. I did not at that time know a cock from a hen. Finally I could find the land and capital necessary for a start, and take half the profits with this man. He was to build the houses and run the business. He had never before handled more than 150 hens, but he intended to run 400 hens with me. With the experience I now have, I know that this man's method of laying out a plant for 400 hens was impractical, and would never have paid well. He, however, gave me my first ideas of

sandy land, and with very little labor.

I sold my first farm, and bought 10 acres at Duncan, B.C., intending to run 1,000 layers, keep one horse, and buy everything else. I had to clear the land by contract and put in an expensive water system in the fall. That winter I engaged a carpenter and together we put up a brooder, house 110 feet long, (hot water system), with a capacity of 2,000 chicks. We also put up a laying house for 150 hens. I bought 100 breeding hens to supply my incubators, and about 1,400 eggs from a breeder near by for hatching. I bought five incubators, each of 240 egg capacity. From nearly 4,000 eggs set in these incubators I got 200 pullets to the laying age. It was not till the following spring, when I lost 2,000 more eggs, that I knew positively that the incubators were at fault, but what I found left no room for doubt.

Success again. To go back with my story, I bought 100 pullets in addition to the 200 hatched, making my stock up to about 400 birds. The following year I bought incubators of another make, 150 in May, and hatched 402 pullets, late but remarkably well in Janu-



The Laying Houses on a Large British Columbia Poultry Plant

The hen house in the near foreground is 300 feet long, and has a capacity of 600 birds. The other house to the left is 180 feet long, and accommodates 400. Note the colony houses in the distance. The illustration shows part of the Hillcrest Poultry Farm, owned by S. G. Hanson, Duncan, Vancouver Island, B.C.

poultry farming. Reading and experience have considerably widened my horizon since.

As a start that August we bought 120 Black Minorca eggs. They hatched on September 8th. We had 35 pullets laying at the end of the following February. I kept accounts carefully, and knew how our different crops paid. These birds laid an average of 176 eggs each in 12 months, and made a net profit of \$3.84 each. They ran on land which could not be used for anything else.

When my partner left me I continued with my farm, gradually increasing the size of my plant and the number of birds kept, till about four years from the start I had a flock of 425 White Leghorns, which made a profit for the year of over \$100.00.

### A PROFITABLE BUSINESS

This was more than I was making from all other sources on my farm put together. I had 100 ewes and four cows, grew about 10 acres of grain, four acres of potatoes, 15 acres of hay, and half an acre of orchard. And I made this poultry money on about one and a half acres of poor

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## Prevention of Red Mites

The roosting quarters in our poultry house are overrun with small red insects. How can we get rid of them?—C. B. M., Peterboro, Co., Ont.

There is nothing so destructive to red mites as coal oil. Keep the roosting quarters clean and spray on coal oil with an ordinary cow sprayer, every day until the mites are disposed of. Always spray the roosts twice a week as a prevention of all such vermin.

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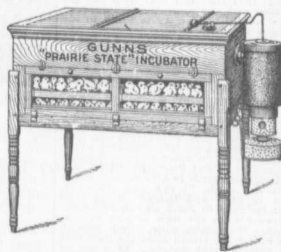
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