

Resources of British Columbia

"WESTWARD THE STAR OF EMPIRE TAKES ITS WAY."

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THE DAIRY AND STOCK FARM.

Permanent and Profitable Industries.

A great portion of British Columbia is particularly adapted to dairying and stock-farming. In the older provinces of the Dominion and in the neighboring States, a very lively competition is carried on among breeders of cattle with regard to economic values; the effects of different feeding stuffs are thoroughly tested and the cost of producing a pound of beef, mutton, cheese or butter is figured as closely as manufacturers of other articles are in the habit of computing the actual cost of the production of their wares. With them such careful calculations is a matter of vital necessity, because their pasturage is very limited and the demand for such products so great that the fields must be carefully cultivated, and that to their full productive capacity, in order to furnish food supplies for the herds. In this province, on the contrary, the natural pasture area is large, almost unbounded, requiring of course no cultivation; the grasses are rich and succulent, the climate well adapted to the operations of the dairy and the raising of healthy stock, and the demand for these products at higher prices than elsewhere, is one that can as certainly be relied upon as that for bread. The demand for one sort of produce is as permanent as for the other. There can be scarce a doubt that our verdant hills and fertile valleys are peculiarly adapted to what is known as mixed farming, a system best calculated to offset possible losses in one direction with certain gains in another, and, at the same time lending to industry that diversity which brings both wealth and independence. No other employment could here be so advantageously combined with the cultivation of the soil as dairying and stock raising. The work of the dairy interferes but little with that of the farm; while its returns may diminish, but never cease with all the changes of the seasons. Stock raising becomes an incidental part of the business, and contributes materially to swell its profits. And finally, the return is bounteous, comprising the value of the dairy products proper, the constant increase of stock and the addition to the soil of a natural fertilizer. It is a matter of regret that the business of dairying is, as yet, carried on in this province on a scale so limited as to be entirely inadequate to supply the home markets. Large quantities of these products are imported every year. The unhappy resident of the city is still compelled

to content himself with watered milk and to swallow through several months of the year with what grace he can, an imported commodity, sold for a round price under the name of butter, but which may not be butter after all. No addition to the industries of this country will be hailed with more satisfaction as contributing to the general prosperity than the extension of the dairy business and mixed farming.

GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Through no spirit of egotism do we now refer to the cordial manner in which the first number of the RESOURCES was received by the press and the public generally. On the contrary, we feel that the substantial patronage and hearty endorsement, so signally accorded to it, were largely due to the long felt need of some such publication rather than to the excellence of the manner in which we have measurably supplied that want. To say nothing of the gratitude which such encouragement naturally enkindles, we would, in this respect, be grossly wanting in the observance of one of the simplest requirements of ordinary etiquette, did we fail to make due acknowledgment of these valued favors, however unmerited on our part. Therefore, we hereby beg to tender to one and all the assurance of our high appreciation of, and sincere thanks for their liberal patronage and moral support, and, in an especial manner to the press of this province, which, with one trifling exception, has spoken only words of encouraging commendation in our behalf. In this connection we will say, once for all, that the RESOURCES is to respectable and its space too valuable to give more than a passing notice to the cur-like and unprovoked attacks of the snarling and churlish starveling referred to. Having adopted for the conduct of our magazine, no mediocre *Standard* and having started on our onward course from a correct *Post*, with our interests constantly guarded by a faithful and acute *Sentinel*, besides having the cordial endorsement of a *Free Press*, together with the potent assistance and good will of every enterprising and intelligent *Colonist* and every worthy and true *Columbian*, we cannot be expected to evince any other than a disdainful regard for the puerile wrath of an imbecile, self-constituted and jaundiced old *wardian*.

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