

tions of the Fraser Valley and the ranching districts of the interior.

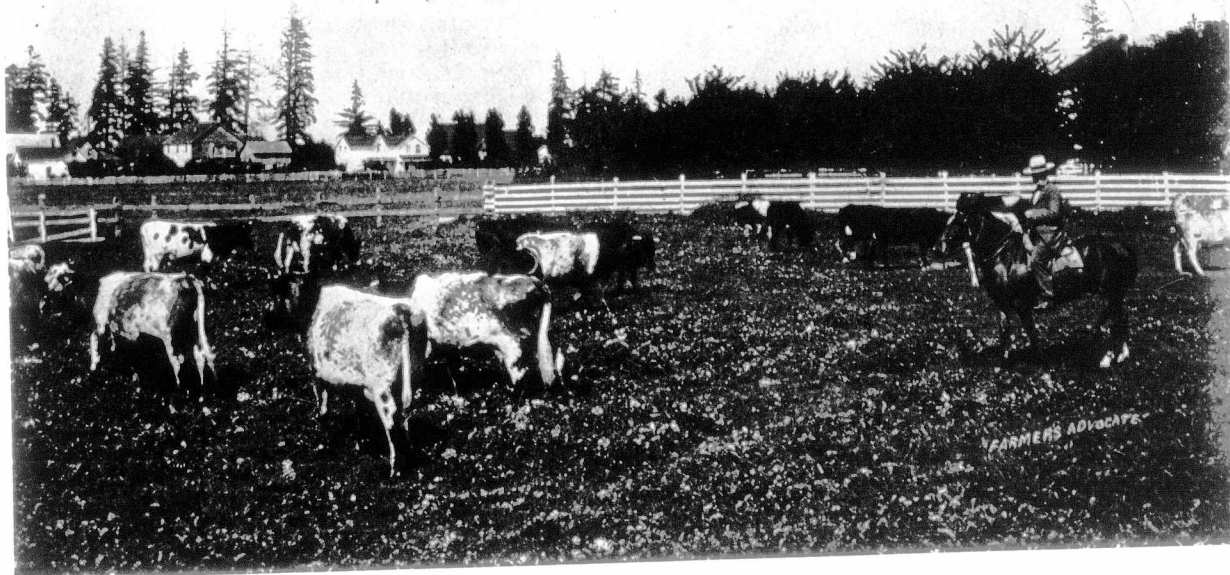
**WHEAT.**—In cereals, wheat-growing is not increasing, nor likely to, as there is a fast-growing tendency on the part of Okanagan farmers, who are the largest wheat-growers, to change from the common "wheat and summer-fallow" methods to systems of mixed farming in which dairying and winter feeding of stock would be important items. In this district, too, very large quantities of potatoes are grown for shipment to Kootenay points, and fill an important place in crop rotations.

**FRUIT-GROWING**, particularly in the southern portion of the Okanagan Valley and on Vancouver and other adjacent islands, is now a proven commercial success. Carload shipments of fruit, chiefly plums and apples, have been going forward to market in the Kootenays and the Northwest Territories weekly since the season opened, and prices have been higher than for some years past.

The acreage under fruit will be largely extended in the coming spring in the districts mentioned. A very satisfactory improvement is noticeable in methods of packing and shipping fruit to market, due to the employment of skilled labor by the large growers, and generally as a result of practical lessons given by experts from California and Oregon, who have visited all the fruit-growing sections, under the direction of the Provincial Fruit-growers' Association, with excellent results. Commercial fruit-growing has now reached a stage where its expansion can be carried forward on safe lines; experience has demonstrated the lines which should be followed in choosing varieties, in cultivating, pruning and spraying, to ensure success. In this connection most valuable work has been accomplished by the Provincial Board of Horticulture, as well as in keeping the markets clear of infected fruit, and the orchards from dangerous pests, including the dreaded San Jose scale and the codling moth.

**POULTRY-RAISING** is commanding attention more in harmony with its possibilities than formerly, especially in the vicinity of the cities of Victoria, Vancouver, and New Westminster. Egg production is perhaps the most profitable branch of the business, and notably so where laying birds are kept in small flocks in movable houses. While climatic conditions and markets are alike favorable to financial success with poultry, here as elsewhere it has been demonstrated that experience, close attention to details and study of local conditions are absolutely necessary to ensure the same. The favorite breeds as layers are Leghorns, Minorcas, Wyandottes, and Plymouth Rocks.

**LAND CLEARING.**—Summing up the situation, there is no question but the future is most promising for agriculturists with cleared lands, who can devote their time to the production of staple crops, or finished farm products. On the other hand, the problem of cheap and rapid clear-

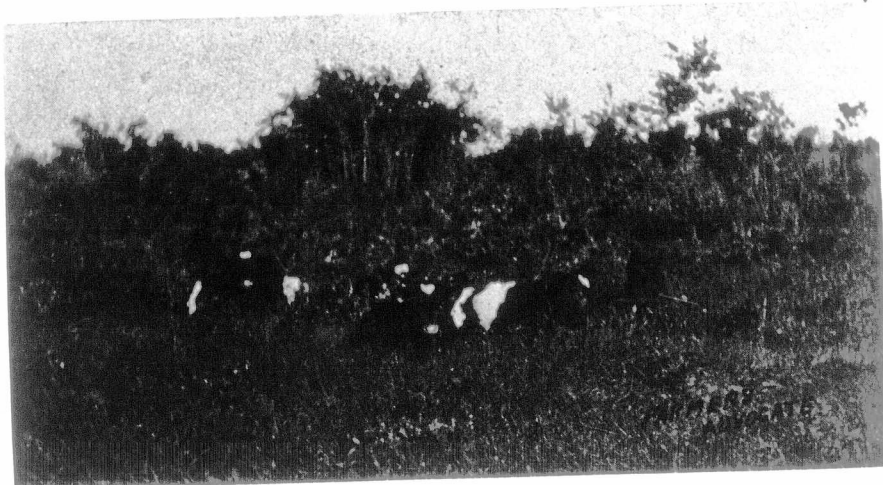


WILLIAM LADNER'S DAIRY COWS, DELTA, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

ing of the forest lands suitable for farming purposes still remains to be solved. Of these lands, many thousands of acres are available in the proximity of proved mining districts, in the Kootenay, Boundary and Kettle River sections,

the poorer settlers, with whom the pressing problem is "how to clear their farms and make a living at the same time."

Government aid in this connection has not yet taken definite form, but will probably do so in the near future. There can be no question as to the desirability or wisdom of helping deserving settlers in their efforts at farm-making, and assisting in the building up of an agricultural community which shall bear a more equal part in supplying the requirements of the communities growing so rapidly as a consequence of the development of the resources of the Province in other lines, and so retain in the Province the immense sums of money which are now yearly sent away for the necessities of life. For the incoming settler with money sufficient to buy and stock a cleared farm, British Columbia at



"WE'LL BE DOGIES IN ALBERTA."

where markets are near at hand and certain. The cost of land-clearing has been reduced by the more general use of stumping machinery and blasting powder, but these means are not always available, and are beyond the reach of many of

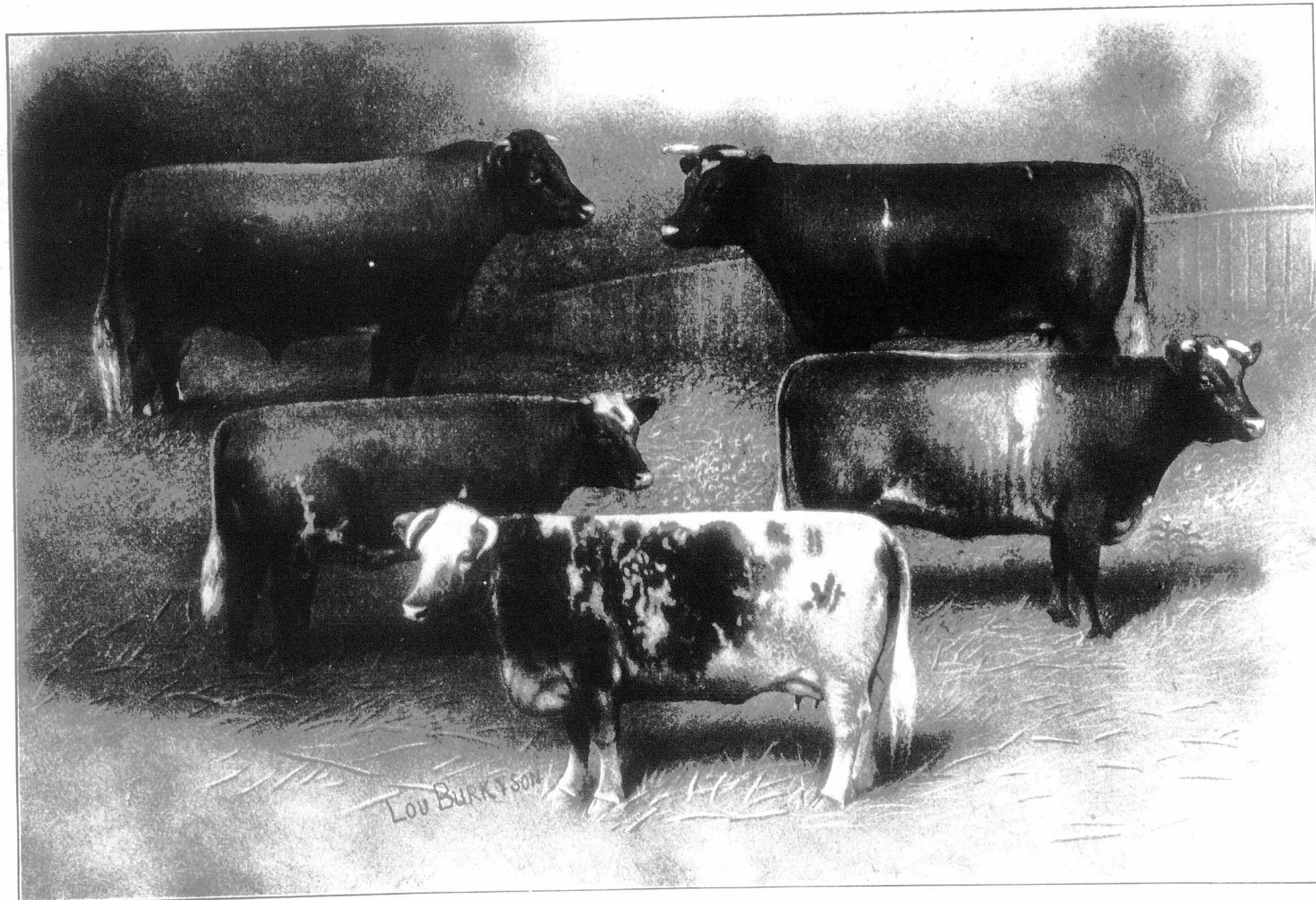
the present time offers opportunities which can hardly be equalled elsewhere, but for the needy settler the situation is not so promising.

**INSTITUTES.**—Excellent work has been done throughout the farming districts by and through Farmers' Institutes, the theory of farm work has been well exploited, particularly by lectures from Ontario, in regard to stock raising and feeding, soil cultivation and rotation of crops.

**LABOR.**—The farm-labor question is also a somewhat difficult one. Skilled farm hands and good milkers in particular are everywhere in request, at wages averaging nearly double those usually paid in Eastern Canada.

Farm districts lying within easy reach of the larger towns can usually obtain Chinese or Japanese help, but this is not satisfactory when skill or judgment is required, and during the fishing season, in July and August, cannot be depended upon, as the higher wages offered the men by salmon canneries draw them away at the very time their services are most needed.

**DYKING.**—As a result of extensive dyking works which have been carried on during recent years in Fraser Valley districts, at Ladner's, Chilliwack, Matsqui and elsewhere, the area under crops, principally hay and oats, has been very largely increased, and although in some instances the cost of reclamation has been heavier than contemplated, and bears hardly on some individuals, the land is highly fertile and well able to bear the cost of the work, viewed as an entirety.



Golden Drop Victor (imp.) - 32065 = (56780) 14937.  
Catalonia 3rd, by G. D. Victor.

Princess Mysie 2nd (imp.).  
Clara F. 3rd (imp.).

TYPICAL SCOTCH-BRED SHORTHORNS.

PROPERTY OF H. CARGILL & SON, CARGILL, ONT. (SEE GOSSIP, PAGE 858.)