

PRACTICAL POULTRY RAISING.

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By R. W. HODSON, Live Stock Commissioner.

The demand for knowledge pertaining to the poultry industry in British Columbia is rapidly increasing. The aim of this Bulletin is to give, to some extent at least, that desired information. It is prepared with the object of encouraging the poultry industry throughout the Province. The average farm of this Province is not large, and in many cases only a part of the land is cleared, and perhaps a portion of this cleared area is planted in orchard. While the orchard is growing and the farmer is clearing more land he should have some source of income. Under such conditions poultry-raising proves very profitable. No branch can be carried on with as inexpensive an outlay as can the poultry department. Any farm is improved by a poultry department, and few businesses can be operated in as wide a range of climate and in as varied conditions.

The system of mixed farming as carried on in Canada is ideal for the rearing of poultry. In this Province the returns from the flock should add materially to the income of the fruit-grower or the dairyman, or even the man who is merely in the process of clearing his land. The orchard makes an admirable yard for poultry, especially growing stock, and there is hardly a better place for chickens than the dairyman's paddock or cattle-yard.

The hen to-day may be considered the most profitable condenser of the raw materials on the land into a high-priced product—the egg. In the orchard many insect pests will be destroyed, and by-products of the orchard, which would otherwise go to waste, will be converted into profit. Poultry will also economise a great deal of waste in the dairyman's yard. This policy of economising, together with the income from the eggs produced, should prove highly profitable.

CLIMATE.

The climate of British Columbia is almost ideal for poultry-raising. It is mild, with no sudden changes of temperature, which tend to cause roup and colds amongst the flock. The days are dry,