

ply the purpose of this article to bring this important question prominently to the attention of the members of the Association and of my fellow-fanciers generally, and to throw out a few suggestions for their consideration.

More attention must be given to dressed poultry and eggs in the show room if the poultry industry is to go ahead as it deserves. At all our leading shows the individual fancier should not only make an exhibit of his best breeding specimens alive, but of the dressed birds that are produced from such stock. To foster this feature substantial prizes should be given on the dressed birds, even if it means the reduction of the regular prizes, but I do not think this would be necessary. The Government would, I am informed, be willing to substantially supplement the present grant to encourage this feature at the "Ontario." But increased Government assistance or not, dressed poultry should not be side-tracked as it is at present. Take up the prize list of the present show and we find that only \$3.50 is allotted for prizes in this department. Turkeys compete with Plymouth Rocks and Plymouth Rocks with geese, and geese with ducks. No rule is laid down to govern the judge or the exhibitor in this department, and the exhibitor is forced to pay a fee of fifty cents for each specimen or pair. (the prize list does not say which), he exhibits, and in return he may get \$2.00 back if the judge fancies his specimen most. This is a serious reflection on the wisdom of the Directors of the Association.

Separate classes should be provided for dressed Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Langshans, Cochins, Brahas and other varieties; for turkeys, geese and ducks. Further, the classes for the different breeds should be subdivided. For instance, there should be classes for barred, white and buff Plymouth Rocks, so that the table value and appearance of the different varieties may be judged. And the same with the other general purpose or utility breeds, and the turkeys, geese and ducks. The prizes in this department should be as large, or larger as on the live specimens, and the entry fee, not including the Association membership fee, should be abolished. Instead of only \$3.50 being awarded as premiums in this department at least \$350.00 should be given.

To further accentuate the superior market qualities of the stock that comes from the show bird, an exhibit might be made comparing it with the poultry that is usually found on our markets and shops.

The egg side of the industry should not be lost sight of, either. This country exports eggs by the million every year, and the fanciers have been losing a golden opportunity in not taking steps to prove to the egg farmer that the uniform eggs that came from the Standard bred of any of the breeds are much more profitable than the varied lot that is usually collected at the farm houses of the land. The Directors have only allowed \$2.00 as prizes on eggs, and charge an entry fee of 25 cents.

The increased trade that would come to the fancier by thus giving prominence to dressed poultry and eggs in the show room would be very large, I am convinced. Let me illustrate. An exhibitor, we will say, wins on Plymouth Rocks in the live department. A farmer comes along and admires the beautiful feathers on these specimens but doubts their utility. The exhibitor takes him over to the dressed poultry exhibit and points

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out the fowls prepared for market that came from his winning cock, or the eggs that his winning hen or pullet produced. Will it not be vastly easier to make a sale to that farmer than if no such object lesson was at hand?

If properly presented to the Government, I am sure no difficulty would be experienced in having a substantial grant made for this department of our shows, and particularly of the "Ontario." This year \$300 was given to the Fat Stock Show to be expended on dressed poultry and eggs, and I think a like sum or even larger, could be secured for the "Ontario." It could also be induced to furnish cold storage facilities for the specimens while on exhibition similar to that furnished for butter and perishable dairy supplies at the Western and other fairs.

In conclusion, let me say, the Standard bred fowl is as much ahead of the barnyard mongrel as the modern binder is ahead of our grandfather's sickle in the harvest field, and we fanciers are failing in our duty if we do not make every possible effort to convince the farmer of this fact.

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