

point him; and by all means let him be a local man if it is possible to get one. While there are objections to local men, I consider there are more to foreigners. In the first place, the local man is very seldom appointed unless he is well known to be posted on the varieties he is going to judge; his integrity is also unquestioned, because were he dishonorable it would be well known to his neighbors, and they would not trust him; while he may have prejudices, and wish to favor his friends, he cannot do it without all competitors seeing it is not from ignorance he makes wrong award.

Now for the foreign judge. He comes amongst us as a stranger, but bear in mind he is not a stranger long; he soon gets acquainted, he commences to sell some of his stock to his new made friends, and if not at his first, certainly at his second show, he would have a little "axe to grind." Again, it is impossible to know as much of a stranger, either as to his ability or integrity, as you do of the local man, and taking it all and all, I am satisfied we run three times more risk from a judge appointed from afar off than from a local man.

A good judge requires to be a man of rare qualities. There are not many men, even good fanciers and breeders, who are really good judges. A man requires to be a thoroughly good judge of what he is to pass judgement on, free from prejudice, and not afraid to give his awards regardless of the opinions of friends or foes. Now such men are not plentiful, but they do exist, and are just as easily found amongst local men as from those being afar off; and when they can be found at home, by all means get one, and fasten on to him, and my word for it, in the end it will be found more satisfactory than bringing men to judge from all over creation.

I now have a word to say to exhibitors. For gracious sake try and learn that it is quite possible, nay, very probable, that your neighbor's stock is as good as yours: and if you can't learn this, do not make it your persistent business to worry the life out of everybody you can button-hole, —judges included—extolling the merits of your defeated birds, and berating the better qualities of the prize-winners.

I have on several occasions acted as judge at shows, and of one thing I am certain, I shall never do it again. It is without exception the most unenviable position a man can be placed in. What with reasonable complaints and unreasonable grumbling, a judge sometimes might as well be in purgatory. I remember one time a disappointed exhibitor giving me a terrible overhauling because I did not give his animal first prize in a large class, and the fun of it was it had no business in the class at all but belonged to another.

Matching Plymouth Rocks in Show-Pen.

There seems to be a very great diversity of opinion existing in the minds of fanciers on the above question, how to match for the show-pen? nor do I think the minds of most of our judges are very clear or fixed upon the subject.

This is a matter of very great importance to those who are breeders of this variety, for as it stands now it is open to much criticism and adverse judgement by judges at our shows. Judge A. decides in favor of the pen evenly matched in color, though the cock be that dark that his owner would not use him for any other purpose, and likewise may be a point or so behind an adjoining pen that is matched with a much lighter cock, but the dark pen carries off the red ticket, simply because it is better matched in color. Well the owner of the dark pen is well pleased and quite agrees with the decision of judge A., and concludes to try again at the next coming show. But here the judging falls into other hands, and judge B. sees fit to reverse the decision of judge A., and the red ticket falls to the lot of the pen with the light colored cock this time. Who is right, judge A. or B.? that is the question we want decided and permanently settled.

Why do we demand of Plymouth Rocks more than we ask from other varieties? Take for instance, Duckwing Game or Dark Brahmas, &c., the plumage of cock and hen being quite different, and yet there is no such demand made on them, and they are termed matched, and quite correctly too. But the difference is just here, while they are matched for the show pen they may also be "mated" for breeding purposes, while the dark colored Plymouth Rocks are totally unfit for any such purpose, only leading to disappointment and vexation to any one not knowing who might be led to purchase the first prize pen at a good price, only to end with the above result.

While on the subject of Plymouth Rocks I would express a hope that the judges of this variety will not sacrifice other points to size and weight, as many of them did in the Asiatic classes in days gone by. Already we find that there are some breeders seeking to increase the size of their birds by crossing with some of the larger sorts, at least if we may judge by the many complaints to be found in poultry journals of those who have purchased eggs from first class breeders (as they say) to find the chicks produced from them with feathered legs, evidently showing a cross somewhere. I think this course with the Plymouth Rock is not desirable, and ought not to be encouraged by the judges at our shows for the sake of size.

THOS. COSTEN.

EX JUDGE.

Montreal, January 10th, 1891.