

kind that would be worth flying for, say a distance of 100 miles. I think a good silver cup would be an appropriate prize for the first bird home, and cash prizes for second and third. Could it not be arranged to fly the distance of 100 miles to each town to which the birds belong, and the birds of each place be liberated at the same time; the first bird doing the distance to receive the cup."

We cannot see that any improvement can be made on Mr. Adams' suggestion. By this means the fancier in each locality can choose what he considers to be the most favorable course. We, in the west, must naturally train our birds east, and as in Canada westerly winds are most prevalent, our birds would generally be at a disadvantage in homing against it, should they be competing with birds trained west.

As the distance can not always be arrived at where reliable homing stations are established, some scale of allowance should be adopted for the bird that would have to fly over the standard distance, and deduction for those that would fly short of it. On the principle that "It is the last straw that broke the camel's back," we think the allowance should be very liberal for the excess. Let the Canadian Columbarian Society take this matter into consideration, and give us a scale to be followed in all our races.

We would suggest that all the Antwerp fanciers contribute each year and procure a cup, or some other appropriate prize, to be awarded to the bird that makes the best flight in that year; and also to be considered champion bird until its flight is beaten; and that our Columbarian Society frame rules to govern this contest.

Let one of our fanciers who has a full loft challenge another to a trial similar to that Mr. Wascelaer offers to the New York and Philadelphia fanciers; if necessary the number of birds to participate might be reduced to ten. This plan will test the general excellence of the stock, while the other the individual excellence of the birds.

Mr. Bessey writes us: "Try and get up a fifty mile race for June, say 50 or 60 miles in any direction so long as the right distance is made. I would say for each man to pay an entrance fee of \$5, and not fly more than five birds; money to be divided into three or four prizes and a gold medal. Try and fix it up in some way, as I am anxious to either beat some one or be beaten."

We know of no way to more readily meet Mr. Bessey's wishes than to inform him that our loft contains but seven birds; two of these are squeakers, and made their first fly out to-day (April 8th); these we will match against two of his of same age or near it, to fly on or after May 24th, and on any equal terms he may propose—merely as a test of our respective birds.

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--BY--

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Answering Inquiries.

There are many practices which, though not strictly amenable to civil law, are nevertheless in direct violation of correct business principles, and in opposition to that unwritten code of courtesy and fair treatment, which should always govern human transactions. Such practices, though not subjecting their authors to any legal prosecution, are, in some cases, quite as annoying, and cause quite as much loss and inconvenience, as though the parties were liable to an action in a court of law. We feel it to be our duty to call attention to an evil that exists, even among fanciers, and which we trust our remarks may have some tendency to remedy. A great many fanciers who advertise stock and eggs for sale, do not promptly answer the letters of intending customers, if they are, at the time, unable to supply the stock or eggs wanted, thinking it merely a loss of time and money to do so. Others just select those correspondents who seem most likely to bring them business, and leave the rest unanswered. We desire to refer to this matter in all kindness, and charity, believing that many of those who are guilty of conduct so censurable, do it from mere thoughtlessness, mingled with a trifle of indolence. Let them rouse up, and consider carefully the nature and consequences of their offense. It is considered grossly discourteous to neglect to answer a letter; how much more discourteous is it, then, for the man who, by a public advertisement, asks for the people's patronage, to treat with silent contempt those who respond to his announcements! We desire to make all reasonable allowance for those follies, foibles, mistakes and omissions of correspondents, which