

THE ONTARIO LIST.

Editor Review :

I WAS exceedingly pleased to read Mr. Graham's letter in the March REVIEW upon the most unequal distribution of prizes at the last Ontario Show to say nothing of the deliberate falsehood in stating on the prize list that it was a \$15,000 prize list, \$1,282.50 being the actual amount of the prizes. The Government of Ontario gives, I believe, \$900 to the Ontario Poultry Association (which I am informed is discounted and spent one year in advance of its receipt), and \$400 to the Eastern Ontario Poultry and P. S. Association and this money is doubtless given in the interests of Agriculture, that is for the improvement of poultry with a view to the supply of the markets with eggs and dressed poultry. Mr. Graham has pointed out that at the Ontario show more money is offered in prizes for cage birds and rabbits than for the most universally esteemed breed of general purpose fowl—the Plymouth Rock—and that the prizes offered for pigeons exceed those offered to all the principal egg producing breeds put together, viz. : Leghorns, Minorcas, Andalusians and Red Caps. While the prize list for Polands exceeds that of any other bred, not even excepting Games. Perhaps too, this bad showing would be worse if the number of entries in the various classes were taken and that in some of the ornamental and fancy classes it would be found that there were only entries enough to take the prizes while the great mass of the entries were made in the useful and practical classes of fowl for which the prizes are so meagre.

From the Ontario list let us turn to the Eastern Ontario Association. At the last show the prizes were distributed as follows : Brahmas, \$12 ; Cochins, \$24 ; Langshans, \$12 ; Javas, \$6 ; Dorkings, \$6 ; P.Rocks, \$12 ; Wyandottes, \$18 ; B. Spanish, \$6 ; Andalusians, \$6 ; Minorcas, \$12 ; Leghorns, \$30 ; Games, \$42 ; Hamburgs, \$30 ; Polish \$24 ; Houdans, \$6 ; Red Caps, \$6 ; A.O.V., \$6 ; Bantams, \$66 ; Turkeys, \$24, Ducks, \$24 ; Geese, \$18, and \$5 for best exhibit of Turkeys, Ducks and Geese. Pigeons \$108 (I leave out the special prizes donated by private individuals and also \$39 for swans, guinea fowls, pheasants, etc., etc., as there were no entries for any of the prizes). No very severe criticism can perhaps be made with respect to the distribution of the prizes for the ordinary poultry, if you concede the propriety (which I do not) of having seven classes of Game, five of Hamburgs and six of Polish and having the prizes for the several classes equal. But when you come to the Bantams and pigeons it is quite another

matter. \$66 for Bantams and worse still \$108 for pigeons. As a matter of fact there were ninety-four pigeons shown and and ninetywon prizes. Surely it is time that something should be done to put these prize lists on a business basis especially in view of the fact that the societies receive government grants in the interests of the farmers. The E.O.P. & P.S. Association had its eyes opened by the last exhibition and half its pigeon coops are now for sale. Mr. Graham's letter may perhaps open the eyes of the Ontario Association. Of course we must not lose sight of the fact that it is necessary to make a thoroughly satisfactory exhibition that the ornamental and fancy classes of fowl should be represented, and that the large breeders depend to a certain extent on the prizes they pick up in the fancy classes to pay the very large expense they are put to in visiting the exhibitions and in bringing not only fancy birds but also the practical useful fowls. However it seems to me that if the Government continues to give grants in aid of these Associations for the purpose of assisting the poultry industries of the country that the gentlemen who are responsible for the management of the Associations are in honor bound to see that the farmers' birds are not neglected for Hamburgs, Polands, Bantams, Pigeons and Cage birds.

FRANCIS H. GISBORNE.

Ottawa, 18th March, 95.

[See paragraph in Notes and Comments.—Ed.]

Editor Review :

Having read Mr. Graham's letter in March REVIEW and also that from the pen of Mr. C. S. Jackson in April number, I cannot see that the Government money is being unfairly distributed. Mr. Graham apparently thinks no variety of fowl is useful unless it is solely fit to eat. He classes Hamburgs, Polands, Bantams, rabbits, and pigeons as ornamental and seems to think the farmer should have no encouragement to breed these varieties. I think Mr. Graham is selfish in his views. He should not forget that those fanciers who have his objectional breeds take just as much interest in, and probably make a better living out of them than he does with his pet variety. Does anyone mean to tell us that Mr. Bogue, Mr. McNeil and many others who have done so much for the poultry interests in Canada should be debarred from showing Polands, Hamburgs etc., simply because these varieties are not so well adapted as some of the larger breeds are for table purposes? I think a breeder who can bring home a \$500 piano at Uncle Sam's expense should surely be encouraged to keep at his industry especially when he runs his poultry farm so successfully, which very few farmers have yet been able to do. We could not afford to lose such able breeders from our ranks, their experience is