

to fly, the birds owned by other intending competitors having gone amiss in training for the flight.

Thursday night last, the birds were countermarked by Messrs. Sparrow and Ryan, and shipped by the Canadian Express Company to Prof. Wesley Mills, M.D., president D.M.P.A., Cote St. Antoine, Montreal, who very kindly acted as liberator, and discharged that duty in a most satisfactory manner.

The pigeons were liberated by the Professor at 5.30 a.m. on Saturday morning last, and previous to liberation a message was fixed to the leg of each by means of the paper message slip lately devised by Major-General Cameron, secretary of the D.M.P.A. which the pigeons carried intact to their loft at Toronto. When the slips had been detached from the legs of the pigeons, and examined they were found to bear the following messages :

"To H. B. Donovan, Toronto :—Dear Sir,—I congratulate you on the enterprise of your townsmen interested in Messenger pigeons
Yours truly,

WESELEY MILLS."

"To James Gairdner, jr., Toronto :—Dear Sir,—Birds delivered to me at 2. p.m., on Friday in good condition.
Yours faithfully.

WESELEY MILLS."

News of liberation was learned from the following telegram :

"Montreal, Que., Aug. 11th, 1894.

"Birds liberated at 5.30 in perfect weather."

WESLEY MILLS.

The exact time of the return of these worthy messengers is not known as they undoubtedly arrived several minutes before they were noticed by the gentlemen present, but when they were found in the entrance cage of the loft it was 4.35 p.m., and their presence created great enthusiasm among those in attendance, as well as considerable surprise, the surprise being due to the fact that it was the belief in the minds of a number of the fanciers of Toronto that the bird was not in Canada that could accomplish this flight in one day, the best previous record for the same being four days. The birds succeeding in knocking this theory out are Lord Gillooley, banded Q. 464, and Silver Jennie, Q 18. They are both representatives of the famous Eldorado family of long-distance Messenger pigeons, and have a number of very good performances to their credit. From the many grand performances of the Eldorados it must be admitted that they have proven themselves to be the greatest strain of long-distance birds in the Dominion. These birds have now established two grand Canadian records :—Montreal to Toronto, 333 miles, in 11

hours ; best previous record, four days ; Windsor to Toronto, 230 miles, 7 hours 23 minutes, (young birds) ; best previous record, 10 hours (old birds). It will be noticed that the birds establishing this grand record are the bearers of the Q. bands, and are now a little over a year old.

The pigeons are owned by J. Gairdner, sr. Eldorado lofts Toronto, were marked and shipped by Messrs. Sparrow and Ryan, were liberated at Montreal by Prof. Wesley Mills, and were timed on their return by Messrs. Giles, Brown and Ryan.

ENGLISH STANDARD FOR PIGMY POUTERS.

See Plate in this Issue.

HEAD.—Fine, small and narrow, and even curve from front to back.

BEAK.—Fine, mandibles straight, upper slightly curved at tip.

BEAK WATTLE.—Small and fine in texture.

EYE.—Full, and of mild expression.

EYE CERE.—Very fine and thread-like.

NECK.—Long, and furnished with a large globular crop forward in position.

BODY.—1. Shoulders, short and flat, or "wall-shouldered" and tight to the body.

2. Back, narrow and short, with a grooved line from base of neck towards rump.

3. Rump, narrow, shallow, straight and smooth.

4. Breast, narrow, straight, long and convex, showing very little keel.

5. Belly, narrow, and tapering sharp to the vent.

WINGS.—short and shallow, close to body, showing waist and upper part of thigh, tapering to flights, which should be short, narrow in web of feather and tapering to end of tail upon which they should rest.

TAIL.—Short, narrow, in a straight line with the back round ended, nearly touching the ground, and with the wings presenting a wedge-shaped appearance from shoulders to tip of tail.

CARRIAGE.—Upright

ACTION.—Free, lively and graceful.

LENGTH.—From about twelve inches in hens to thirteen inches in cocks, measured from tip of beak to end of tail.

LIMBS.—From about five inches in hens to five and three-fourths inches in cocks, measured from thigh joint to tip of middle toe nail.

1. Front view—Placed well back from crop, insertion close, thigh and hock joint straight, inclining inwards, from thence to foot inclining outwards very slightly.

2.—Side view—Following the line of body with convex