

POULTRY.

(Under this heading, all questions relating to poultry will be answered.)

THE executive of the B. C. D., P. and P. S. Association held a meeting last night in their office on Bastion street—business: The report of auditing committee.

The following members of the Nanaimo Poultry Society have been incorporated as the Nanaimo Poultry Society, Limited: Andrew Haslam, M. P.; E. A. Praeger, M. D.; S. W. Lobb, R. E. McKechnie, J. E. R. Taggart, F. W. Teague and Richard Nightingale. The capital stock is \$25,000 divided into 2,500 shares.

We presume this means that the original society is disbanded, as there is certainly not room for two in one town or district. We shall be pleased to publish reports of their meetings.

We remarked in a former issue on the practice of directors of societies causing special prizes to be offered for classes in which they were competitors, and, in most cases, successful ones. And now we hear from a Nanaimo fancier that at their show last December, many of the largest specials were won by officials of the society.

We believe that such practices cannot be too strongly condemned. We should think that a sense of decency would cause the officials to spread the specials over such classes as would draw a large number of entries from amateur fanciers.

Certainly, professional breeders are a necessity at a show, but no show can be a success that is run entirely in their interests. They should be and, as a rule, are satisfied to take their chances at the regular prize money, as the sales they make and the advertising they get amply repay them for the expense of exhibiting.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

I would like to ask you about Mr. Hewes' judging of Pit Game at Nanaimo show. Three cocks were entered, and he gave the prizes according to weight. An eight-pound cock got first, a seven-pound second and one weighing four pounds, that most of the cockers said was the best, he disqualified for being too small. He also said that duck foot in Game Bantams was caused by their roosting on broad perches. Was he right?

NANAIMO.

Answer—In regard to the first question, we asked a well known game breeder who attended the show, and he said that the small bird was easily the best on shape, style and firmness of flesh, the qualities which should be looked for in judging Pit Game.

2. Mr. Hewes was decidedly wrong. Duck foot is simply an inherent defect in some strains of Game and Game Bantams, and, in mating, care should be taken that it is not introduced.

We don't think our poultry friends will object to a dog item now and again in this department, especially if it refers to bird dogs. The following eastern prize win-

ners have lately arrived in this city: English setter, Lady Howard; Irish setter, Madcap II; cocker, Champion King Pharo's Sister; fox terrier, Blenton Rap-ture.

In our broiler article which appeared in this department March 3rd, we strongly recommended the Indian Game—Partridge Cochon cross. Several fanciers have threatened to dispute this claim, and in order that they may have more material to argue upon, we publish the following by H. S. Babcock for the Canadian Poultry Review, Sept., 1893. Mr. Babcock has since written an article giving his personal experience in favor of the Indian Game—Partridge Cochon cross, in preference to those mentioned in the article below. He says:

"The Rhode Island Poultry Association, owing to the fact that it is a corporation and a beneficiary of the state, receiving an annual appropriation to assist in its work, makes practical poultry one of its professed objects and seeks to encourage the breeding of the most useful breeds from the standpoint of the practical poultryman. To do this it offers premiums upon dressed poultry.

"At its last exhibition, held in Pawtucket during the closing days of December 1892, the Rhode Island State Experiment Station—the manager of whose poultry department is also an officer in the Rhode Island Poultry Association—made an extensive and interesting exhibit of live and dressed capons and cross-bred fowls. The crosses, I write from memory, were chiefly the Indian Game upon the light Brahma, golden and white Wyandottes, Houdan and duckwing Game and silver grey Dorking and the like. Specimens of these crosses were shown both alive and dressed, but, strange as it may seem to a fancier, the dressed birds attracted the greater attention and were in reality one of the most interesting exhibits in the hall.

"Of all these crosses the best was that of the Indian Game upon the light Brahma. The pullet of this cross was one of the finest specimens of dressed poultry I ever saw, and from an American market-man's standpoint was almost if not quite perfection. The body had the best size, the greatest plumpness, the breast and thighs being remarkably rounded and meaty, and the skin and shanks were of the requisite yellow hue. One would have predicted that the Indian Game and Wyandotte cross would have produced the plumper poultry but such was not the case, though the specimens from this cross were really admirable. The Houdan and duckwing Game and Dorking were fine birds, but were not the equals in plumpness of the Indian Game crosses. They were handicapped also for the American market by the color of the shanks and skin.

"This exhibit was a complete demonstration of the very great value of the Indian Game to the market poultryman. All along poultry fanciers have been claiming this value for the Indian Game but their words have had less weight with the practical poultry raiser than they deserved. He has discounted the

praise of the breed because he thought it came from interested motives. But this exhibit confirmed and enforced all that has been said in praise of the Indian Game as a market fowl and there was no chance to discount the specimens that were on exhibition. There was the ocular evidence—to be denied by no one except a blind man, and even he could feel the proof.

"The raisers of market poultry in Canada and the United States, who do not avail themselves of the chance to use the Indian Game in the production of their poultry are not consulting their best interests. Every year fanciers have a few male birds, not good enough for their breeding because of the presence of some defect in color—chiefly the presence of white in the plumage—which they would be glad to sell for a few dollars each to a practical poultry raiser. These birds for his purpose are just as good as those which are more perfect in plumage, and as they can be bought at a low figure and will greatly improve the quality of the dressed poultry, they ought not to be killed as they often are, but should be greedily and quickly bought up for this very use. They probably could be purchased at from \$3 to \$5 each, and would pay for themselves over and over again in a single season. And I believe they would be quickly bought if the practical poultrymen could once see such an exhibit as the one I have alluded to, for this would certainly satisfy them that the investment would be highly profitable.

"It would pay fanciers then, it seems to me, to encourage just such exhibits as this. They, as a body, are supposed to be interested only in the production of beauty, but I do not know a single fancier who is unwilling to widen the market for his stock and who would not rejoice to get a fair price for his culls if he knew they were to be used only for crossing and not be shown as specimens of his skill in breeding. I hope to see poultry associations pay more attention to this comparatively neglected branch of their exhibitions."

Like will Beget Like. At Victoria, '93, won 1st on breeding pen. Victoria, '94, 1st on pen (tie) 1st and 2nd cockerel, 2nd cock, 2nd pullet (tie.) Like Did Beget Like. Pen No. 1 Cockerel Pacific of Ajax strain—Eggs, per setting, \$3.50. Pen No. 2 by cockerel "Golden West" mated to six pullets selected from 80 choice pullets bred by me—Eggs, per setting, \$2. Pen No. 3 by cock "Max," sired by "Prince William I," he by "Ajax 4," he by "Ajax 1"—Eggs \$2.

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P. O. Box 145. Victoria, B. C.

For other poultry advertisements look at bottom of page 6.