

## PUT THE NAMES ON THE COOPS.

J. W. BARTLETT, LAMBETH.

Of all the falacious ideas that haunt the poultry exhibitions of to-day, the notion that the names not appearing on the coops is any guarantee that a more honorable decision will be arrived at, is the most absurd. On the contrary, if the judge wishes to favor any exhibitor, this is a grand cloak for him. He, of course, is not supposed to know whose birds he is judging, but if an exhibitor has sufficient influence with the judge to bias his decision, will he not find ways and means of letting him know which are his birds? while the judge can say, "how did I know they were his when there are no names on the coops;" hence the very fact of the names being on the coops would be an incentive (if such were necessary) to arrive at an intelligent decision. Again, it is decidedly uncomplimentary to the judges, and is paramount to saying we don't want you to know whose birds you are judging, for fear you will not be honest enough to give the prizes to the best birds.

Again, there are very few exhibitors that show for the amount of prize money they receive over the entrance fees, perhaps not half a dozen in the province, but to advertise their stock. Now can this be done without the names on the coops? we think not, more especially since the scoring system has been universally adopted, and the whole time of the show, or at least the greater part of it is taken up in judging, so that even the prize cards on some varieties are not put up until the show is about to break up.

The leading agricultural exhibitions of the province have set us the example of having the exhibitors names on the article, and we trust the managing committees of the shows next season, and especially the Ontario, will follow their example. Last winter at London, a visitor, a stranger to us, complained

bitterly at not learning who were the owners of several specimens, and in all probability some one lost the sale of stock or eggs.

## ONE BLUNDER.

W. J. WEAVER.

(Concluded.)

Plymouth Rocks were the best, and each hen averaged 4 eggs per week. Here is the record of the laying of the cross bred fowls. One pullet laid an egg on the 21st of January and then grew bashful and stopped; three hens commenced laying on the 10th of February and continued to deposit one egg each every "second" day until they were joined by 4 others on the 5th of March. By the 1st of April they were all laying fairly; but about the end of that month cluck! cluck! resounded. I then made to those gentlemen who purchased sittings "presents" of the whole lot.

My theory of the poor performance may not be correct, but it is certainly original. Their sisters and cousins and aunts had hardly ever layed during winter months and they were determined to never disgrace their family by any unseasonable proceedings.

## VARIOUS TOPICS.

W. C. G. PETER.

When first I made my home in this great and glorious Dominion, nearly sixteen years ago, I was wont to bemoan the absence of "chicken lore" among the children of my adopted country. Now, as I look through the overflowing columns of our favorite REVIEW, it seems incredible that, in a good sized town, such a few years ago, there was not one thoroughbred fowl of any variety to be had, and in fact, upon inquiring for such, I was met with looks of astonishment, that told plainer than words could do, that they were "in a fog" as to what I could possibly mean. Yet here we are, already asking for a

Canadian Standard; and by the evidence before me in your journal I can no longer accuse my Canadian "brethren and sisters" of lack of affection for our beautiful feathered friends.

I note several remarks re judges. I am in sympathy with having our own men; at the same time I am a firm believer in the American system of scoring; and there is no doubt that the gentlemen who have applied it satisfactorily for years, and who dictated the score of the several varieties, are more competent to judge by it than those who are just feeling their way into it. That superior judgment will, however, come by practice, and the work of such able men as Messrs. Felch, Bicknell, Stevens, and others, which we have seen the past two years, has done more to educate our own judges to apply the *Standard* than volumes of written instructions. By all means let us bring out our own men, and if they should make a few mistakes at first surely we can bear such an awful calamity with fortitude. We certainly have good judges, especially if we select them according to their speciality, and two or three judges can do the work more satisfactorily than one; when there is a large exhibit the first classes are carefully gone over, but as the last day approaches and there is more to do than can possibly be done with so much care, the other varieties suffer from hasty judgment, and it is *not* the judge's fault at all.

Our esteemed friend Spillett is to the fore re feeding, and if he will look back at the REVIEW a few months he will find my own system of feed in the morning the same as Mr. Kennedy's, or nearly so, and I am glad to be supported by such reliable men. But I hope our old friend will not try the *snow* theory on those beautiful Light Brahmas; my experience is that fowls that have *free access to clean water* will not eat much snow; they will eat a little, but very little of it, and though some