

lice, which will be a great drawback to their growth, and perhaps cause a failure to raise a brood. For five years past I have discontinued keeping turkeys, finding them not very profitable when there were no conveniences to restrain them from committing depredations on the crops. But since I have no turkeys on the farm it has been sadly overrun with grasshoppers, and for two years past they have totally destroyed my turnip and ruta baga crops. I will try raising turkeys again, to see if it will rid me of the grasshoppers. Fifty turkeys roaming in the fields, in a week's time will destroy bushels of these pestiferous insects. If wild turkeys can be obtained and domesticated to cross with the common stock, it would improve the size and make them more robust to bear the rain and wet grass, and therefore more easily raised. By crossing the breed with wild turkeys, the progeny will be more of hunters of flies, bugs and other insects, and less inclined after grain, and of course more profitable. I saw in Millin County a domesticated wild turkey gobbler, a beautiful fowl, his colour brown and snuff, with plumage having a lustre and brilliancy almost equal to the peacock. The wild turkey gobblers do not come to maturity till they are about two years old; the one in question was a large noble bird, twelve months old, but had not commenced to gobble. Fifty of such gobblers as I raised years ago, to take to market the coming Christmas, would bring a handsome pile. I have had on my premises turkeys weighing as much as forty pounds. But turkey raising is attended with much trouble and care, and if not properly managed will be a losing concern, and were it not that I am so sadly harassed with grasshoppers, every turkey should gobble on my farm.—*Cor. Journal of the Farm.*

Poultry Association.

To the Editor.

SIR,—At the meeting of the Board of Agriculture, on the 24th February, Professor Buckland proposed a grant to the Ontario Poultry Association.

Mr. Rykert opposed the motion on the ground that a good deal of complaint had been made respecting the exclusive character of the Association.

I should be obliged if he would also state by whom the complaint was made. As one of the original promoters of the Society in 1866, I shall be fully borne out by its members in saying that in the first instance we called it the Canada West Poultry Association, and when the Province, on the formation of the Dominion, became Ontario, the word Ontario was substituted for "Canada West." This was done, in both cases, to obviate any such idea as that now started by Mr. Rykert.

The membership is open to all. The competition is not restricted to any part of the world; but why the citizens of Toronto, who have solely contributed in a most liberal

manner to the prize list and expenses of the four exhibitions that have been held, should do so for the amusement of other cities, it is difficult to understand.

I am safe in saying, I believe, that not one cent, exclusive of membership and entrance fees, has been gratuitously contributed towards the benefit of the Society outside of Toronto, except in one instance, when a distinguished exhibitor from Montreal returned his prize money as a donation to the Society. A circular was sent to individual members at the commencement of this year, asking for voluntary contributions towards the expense of a fifth exhibition. What was the result? Several prominent members from a distance requested their names to be erased from the Society's books; and to judge from the response received outside of Toronto, it would appear that if, as Mr. Rykert appears to wish, exhibitions are to be held at St. Catharines, Hamilton, and other cities, the \$100 proposed as a grant will have to be multiplied by six to enable the plan to be carried out.

Towards the expenses of a show in April next some few—three or four—not in Toronto, have proposed to give; but I believe this is the first instance of the kind on record. If Mr. Rykert will examine the list of awards at the four exhibitions I think it will be seen that most of the exhibitors were not from Toronto, and that most prizes were sent elsewhere.

The constitution and records, and the uniform practice of the Association, will clearly prove to any unprejudiced person that there is really not the slightest ground for this most unfair charge of exclusiveness. It is the country that we aim to benefit, and to the country at large, without favour, the membership is open, and the fact of the exhibitions being hitherto confined to one place has been a matter purely of economy—indeed, of absolute necessity, on the ground of expense. F. C. HASSARD.

The Nova Scotia Dog, Pigeon, and Poultry Club propose to hold a show in Halifax in June next, provided the requisite funds can be obtained. T. D. Almon, M. D., is the Secretary.

CHANGE OF COLOUR.—Mr. Andrew Russell, of Pakenham, who has kept Black Spanish fowls for some years, was surprised to observe lately the plumage of one of his full-bred Spanish hens changing colour; she is now pure white.

INFLUENCE OF RAILROADS ON THE HATCHING OF EGGS.—A peculiar effect of the proximity of railroads on the hatching of eggs has been mentioned in various papers. It has been found that there are scarcely any chickens raised in poultry yards which are situated in the immediate neighbourhood of the rails of a much frequented railroad. This fact is supposed to result from the earthquake-like trembling shaking the soil caused by passing trains, which exert an unfavourable influence on the eggs.—*Ec.*

Entomology.

Imported Insects and Native American Insects.

If we examine into the history of the imported Currant Worm and the native Currant Worm, we shall find a very curious state of things. These two insects both produce sawflies, which are so closely allied to each other, that although they are referred to distinct genera by entomologists, it may be doubted whether the genus (*Pristiphora*) under which the native species is classified be not a mere subgenus of that under which the imported species is classified. Reasoning *a priori*, therefore, we should expect to find a very great similarity in the destructive powers of these two worms, especially as each of them infests the leaves both of the red currant and of the gooseberry. But what are the actual facts? On the one hand we see a Native American species, which must have existed here from time immemorial, feeding on our wild gooseberries and perhaps on our wild red currant, and which yet has troubled our cultivated gooseberries and red currants so very slightly, that it cannot be proved with absolute certainty to have ever done so at all, except in Rock Island County, Illinois, and in Scott County, Iowa.

On the other hand we see a species, only introduced into this country from Europe some twelve years ago, which has already almost put a stop to the cultivation of the gooseberry and red currant throughout a large part of the State of New York, the northern borders of Pennsylvania, and the whole of Canada West, and is slowly but surely extending itself in all directions from the point where it was originally imported. What can be the reason of such a wide difference in the noxious powers of two such closely allied insects, feeding on exactly the same plants, but one of them indigenous to America and the other imported into America from Europe? Nor is this the only case of the kind. We can point out at least three other such cases. The imported Onion-fly (*Anthomyia ceparum*), is a terrible pest to the onion grower in the east, though it has not made its way out west. On the other hand, the native American Onion fly (*Ortalis arcuata*, Walker), which is a closely allied species, and has almost exactly the same habits, has only been heard of in one or two circumscribed localities in the West, and even there does but comparatively little damage. Again, the imported Oyster shell Bark-louse (*Aspidiotus conchiformis*) is a far worse foe to the apple and certain other fruit trees than our indigenous Harris's Bark-louse (*Aspidiotus Harrisii*) though each of them infests the same species. Finally, the imported Mealworm Beetle (*Tenebrio molitor*) swarms throughout the whole United States, and is a great pest, while the native American species