

## OWEN SOUND PIGEON AND PET STOCK ASSOCIATION.

The first annual meeting of the Owen Sound Pigeon and Pet Stock Association was held Friday evening Oct. 16th in the Olympic Club Rooms, Owen Sound. The following officers were elected: Honorary members: Messrs. J. Davey, J. Oatt, J. Douglas, J. Lockerbee, J. Simpson, J. Pringle, J. Ramsey, T. Scott. Hon. President, C. Douglas, Hon. vice-President, A. Cameron; President, J. F. Monck; vice-President, T. A. Ross; Executive Committee: Messrs. Lockerbee, Wilkinson, Todd, Ashbury; Sec.-Treas, W. H. Irving. Some of the members are importing young Homing pigeons to train for races to be held in the near future.

In Montreal report the printer made a mess of one paragraph. After African Owls it should read as follows: *Any other variety, firsts good black German Beards, second neat pair red Magpies.*

A considerable mortality exists in many lofts among young birds when they have got safely "on the wing," and are about to moult the nest feathers. At this period, if at all constitutionally feeble, they are liable to go "light" and to die off. The first moult is something to a young bird what teething is to a child—a season when there is, as it were, an upheaval on the part of Nature. Pigeons naturally are very hardy as regards their digestive powers, as will be realized when we consider the rapidity of the transition from the soft food they receive from their parents when just hatched, to the hard corn they are capable of digesting at a month old. Still, although the time is very short during which it is accomplished, yet the transition is a gradual one, and it is not wise, directly a young bird (reared, we will suppose, on the floor of the loft) can peck up, to remove it from its parents to another pen where it will lose the advantage of those last few days of parental attention which it would otherwise have enjoyed. I am convinced from my own observation that many a young bird is hurried out of the breeding pen away from its parents and suffers like a puppy does which has been taken too early from its dam.—*British fancier.*

We notice that some breeder in Nanaimo, B.C., has been importing Carriers and Dragoons from England.

It would not surprise us to learn that the Eastern Ontario list for pigeons had been largely increased this year. Kingston talks that way.

This is a good time to kill culls; too many are allowed to live.

Try barley for feed this winter, or rather a large proportion of that grain.

## CAGE BIRDS

### PREPARING BIRDS FOR EXHIBITION.

LECTURE BY MR. C. A. HOUSE.

After a few preliminary remarks Mr. House took up the subject of his lecture at the time when birds were just coming through the moult and gradually getting fine. That was a time when it was necessary to use the greatest care as the slightest mistake at so critical a season would upset and thwart the labor of months past. From last February they might have been trying, no doubt, to bring out two or three specimens that would "lick" everybody in the society, and also in all England. At any rate that should be their ambition, and he only hoped some member would find that he had been equal to the occasion. He would take the birds at the time when they were just coming nice and fine. Somehow or other, perhaps, they were not going quite so quick as was desired, they seemed to

#### HANG A LITTLE ABOUT THE NECK

or on the top of the skull, or, perhaps, a tail feather was not just right. Well, in the case of the Leeds Society there were only three weeks in which to get rid of those deflections and bring the bird into condition. If they had a bird that seemed going slowly—not casting the sheath of its feathers nicely—they must take it from its cage and groom it with a badger-hair tooth brush. They might have some difficulty in procuring the latter, but if they were persistent in their demand for such an article they would get one all right. Having got this they must take the affected bird from the cage each day and gently brush its head and neck, and in places where the feathers hung in the sheath. The penetrating fibres of the badger-brush, with constant usage, would brush away the refractory sheath and allow of its bursting as it should. If the brush were dipped in warm water so much the better. Their feathers, by such treatment, would lay better, because they would thus train them into the way they should go. That kind of grooming was particularly useful to crest men. There was a great difficulty with crests coming through the moult by them rubbing their heads against the food hole which had the effect of disturbing the back crest. This daily grooming, however,