

## PORT ARTHUR FAIR.

THE exhibit of poultry was large and proved to be a special feature of the show. Many hitherto new varieties to this district were shown. In this class the exhibits improve each year and competition for prizes is keen.

## PRIZE LIST.

*Brahmas*—light, Bro Jerome; chicks 1 Neil McDougall, 2 Jerome. *Wyandottes*—black, J R McMullen; chicks McMullen; white, McDougall. *Leghorns*—brown, chicks, J B Harrington; white 1 J L Meikle, 2 Jerome; chicks, 1 McDougall, 2 W L Bell. *Houdans*—1 A W Daby, 2 Jerome; *Minorcas*—black 1 and 2 R E Mitchell; chicks 1 Mitchell, 2 A W McCallum. *Langshans*—Harrington. *Polands*—Harrington. *Bantams*—1 Frank Brown, 2 Jerome; chicks, Jerome. *Cochins*—buff, Harrington. *Spanish*—black F Chaussee; chicks Jerome. *Turkeys*—bronze, 1 Daby, 2 Boulter; AOV, Mitchell. *Ducks*—Pekin, Jerome; Aylesbury Boulter; Rouen, J W Andrew. *Geese*—1 Jerome, 2 Boulter.

## LONDON.—GUELPH.—WELLAND.

BY L. G. JARVIS.

A FINE show of poultry, a genial Superintendent, a happy Chairman, a good natured lot of exhibitors, and a splendid building, good light, good coops, and nicely decorated, was what we met on our arrival at London. On account of birds not arriving in time no judging was done on Monday as was intended. The judging was all completed on Tuesday. Not being able to get through in time to leave on the evening train for Guelph, Mr. McNeil officiated in my stead, as judge at that exhibition, and I understand gave general satisfaction.

I left for Welland on Wednesday evening arriving there about two o'clock. Mr. Hutton, V.S., of that town, was at the train on my arrival, to take me to the exhibition grounds. I found a very nice show indeed, over five hundred birds, and in several classes very fine specimens. Light Brahmas a very fine exhibit, I think on the whole a better lot than at Toronto or London. Some very fine white Leghorns, white Minorcas, white Wyandottes, buff Cochins and white Rocks. A very large exhibit of geese, in the Toulouse, Embden and Egyptian varieties. Large canvas tents were used for holding the exhibit and answered the purpose very nicely. We found all classes of coops, some answering the purpose well, others it would take a considerable time to know where to get the fowl out and in some cases we were unable to do so. We find this difficulty at exhibitions where exhibitors provide their own coops.

I think from the experience of this year, and the encouragement of having so good a show, we may look for better accommodation another year. We may also look for a poultry association in this town in the near future.

## THE BOOTED BLACK BANTAM.

BY H. S. BARCOCK, PROVIDENCE, R.I.

WHY don't we have booted black Bantams at our shows? It is quite a number of years since the writer has seen one at any exhibition, and yet he recalls some very good specimens that used to appear. Even the booted white is too rarely seen, although at Providence and at New York some good specimens appear nearly every season.

The making of the black Cochin Bantam ought not to be good cause for the unmaking of the booted black. The birds are so unlike in other respects than the having of feathered shanks and single combs that there is no need of conflict between them. The Cochin is full, feathers soft, but semi erect in carriage, while the booted is less full, broader in feather and very erect in carriage. The Cochin should have a soft hock, the booted a vulture hock with abundant, stiff feathers. One familiar with the two would never mistake the one for the other.

I would really like to see a revival of this neglected Bantam. I consider it an extremely interesting bird and when well bred it certainly has strong claims to beauty of a really high type. Give us booted black Bantams as small as rose-comb and as lustrous as a black Sumatra, of typical shape, with correct carriage, and booted heavily, and there seems to be no more reason why it should not be popular among Bantams, than there is why the Pouter should not be among pigeons.

The trouble seems to have been that the booted Bantams have been shown of too large a size,—they have been Bantams only in name. A Bantam must be small, the smaller the better, other things equal. There is of course a limit beyond which we can not go in the reduction of size, and retain unimpaired the other desired qualities, but the nearer we can get to that limit the better. It will not popularize a variety to show specimens of two pounds when one pound is demanded. Life is too short for any one but the fancier to breed down these large specimens. The general public would not do it, if it knew how to, and as a matter of fact it couldn't if it would. What the public wants is not a promise but a reality—something already perfected. But the fancier knows how to do all these things and he can, if he will, give to the public perfected booted black Bantams, leaving nothing to be desired in size, shape or color,—birds which will delight the eye and easily capture the favor of the crowd.