

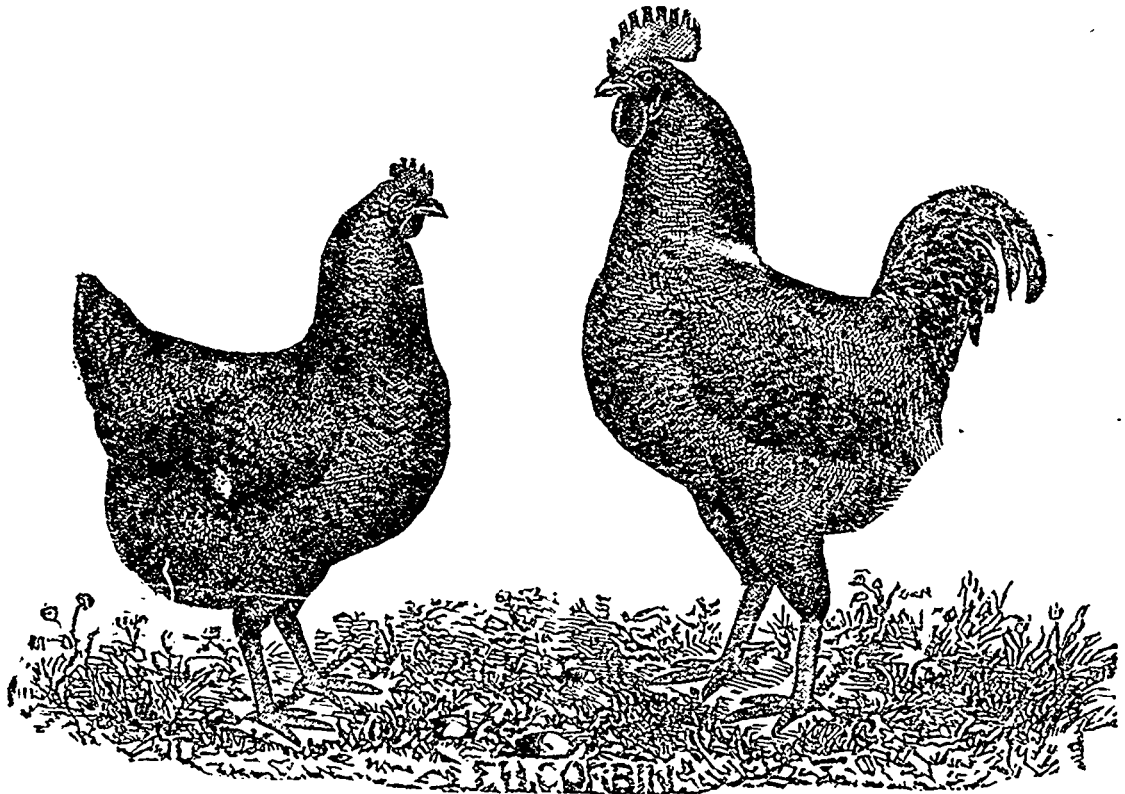
bility of allowing healthy Western cattle to come into this country for export to Great Britain. More recently the Hon. J. O. C. Abbott and the Hon. Mr. Langevin, have been in communication with the Imperial authorities on the subject. The result is not yet known. In the mean time navigation has opened, and the shipment of our Canadian cattle goes on briskly; for the week ending the 9th of May, the shipments have been over a thousand head. During this second week a still larger number are being shipped.

So far, we cannot compliment either the railway or steamboat authorities on the facilities they afford for carrying on the trade. We have seen hundreds of cattle yarded in very mud puddles for hours without water. We have seen, five hundred animals stand in crowded cars on the hot wharf, from early morning till late at night without a drop of water or a morsel of food, and then hurriedly driven on board close, ill-ventilated steamers.

It is eminently the duty of the owners, and particularly of the Insurance Companies, to insist that the carrying Companies provide better facilities. We have not the slightest doubt that the government will lend them all the assistance in its power, and will, by order in council, empower their Inspectors to interfere, on behalf of those interested, to prevent loss of life and cruelty to the animals.

Since the above has been in type, we have received an order in council, regulating these matters, which will be found at page 31.

We are sure the agricultural communities will appreciate the great interest manifested by the Minister of Agriculture in promoting their prosperity by thus fostering one of their most important sources of revenue; a trade which must continue to increase. We hope that the hands of the inspectors will be strengthened by the cooperation of all interested in the trade.



#### Improved Plymouth Rock.

There has probably never been a breed of fowls that has given rise to more discussion, and that, too, in regard to the minutest details, than the Plymouth Rock; a cut of which we give to our readers, photographed from birds, bred and raised by Mr. F. U. Corbin of Newington, Conn. U. S.

The honor of originating the breed has been warmly contested in the Poultry Journals of the United States, and the controversy had hardly subsided, when the question, "What the Plymouth Rock really is?" began to be agitated. The question now was, not, "What is the cross?" but, "What is the breed?" These two questions, being similar to each other, are frequently confounded.

In the interest of our readers we quote from Mr. Corbin's book.

He says "They" (i. e. the questions) "are, however, entirely distinct, the first viz: "What was the cross?" dealing with the elements procuring a certain result; and the

second, viz. "What is the breed?" dealing with the result already produced.

Writers of greater or less note, some of national reputation, took up this latter question; a portion of whom, by substituting cause for effect, endeavored to prove that it was only a modified form of some other breed, forgetting, in their haste, that, however much it might resemble others in certain points or peculiarities, still, it was a distinct breed, with a form, shape, comb, color and marking peculiar to itself, and recognized as such by the Standard: and that the only way to change or modify any of its peculiarities was, by improvement, to which all breeds are susceptible."

Considerable dissatisfaction having been expressed in regard to the shape, Mr. Corbin was induced to try to modify it. After repeated failures, he succeeded in impressing permanently on his own strain, what he considers the true Plymouth Rock shape, or rather, one peculiar to itself.