

For the Canadian Poultry Review.

### Homing Antwerps.

By J. VAN OPSTAL, 4, LEWIS ST. NEW YORK.  
(Continued.)

The same paper gives in its number of July 27th, the following complete references:—

"The letting loose was to take place at 6 o'clock a.m., but was retarded by the fog until 8.50. The first bird arrived at 4 o'clock p.m. It is a pigeon belonging to Mr. Muhelsohn, merchant, and it has won the gold medal offered by the Emperor. Of the 20 birds that took part in this race, more than 20 arrived, the one shortly after the other. The long time the birds have taken to accomplish the voyage must be attributed to the great heat on the day they flew; and it is well known that this circumstance is very unfavorable to the rapid flight of the pigeons."

The races for young birds, that is, for those born in 1878, must take place between Burg and Berlin, on Sunday, the 8th of September; and the birds taking part in this race must be brought to the seat of the Society on Saturday, the 7th of September. Up to this date, they have been let loose successively at Freidenau et Zehlendorf and Potsdam, and although young birds, they have behaved themselves with great credit. They have also been exercised between Werder and Berlin; 225 birds have done this voyage. The result of this concourse is given in the number of the 15th of Sept. of the *National Zeitung*:

"The 134 young pigeons that had to take part in this race were brought, on Saturday, to the seat of the Society, and were put in baskets; during the night they were transported to Burg. This city is situated 117 kilometres, 600 metres, (88 miles), from Berlin. On account of the fog which hung over the city, the birds could not be liberated before 9.15 a.m. The first bird arrived at 11.30. It is a blue chequer, hardly three months old, and has, nevertheless, made the distance in two hours and a few minutes. The second bird arrived at 11.45. After this time, the birds arrived second after second, in such a way that at 12 o'clock the race was closed."

As shown above, the question of the carrier pigeons is not neglected in Germany; the private societies are encouraged by the Government, at the same time exercising the birds of the Military Columbaries.

The *Metzer Zeitung*, of the 10th of August, announces that from time to time loosening of pigeons takes place between Mayence and Metz; and it takes the bird, generally, a little more than two hours to make the distance.

We must here mention a happy innovation of the post of the carrier pigeons; that, although

they have their utility during time of war, are also called upon to render great services in time of peace, in a philanthropic point of view, and of which we have already received proof, according to the account of the *Norddeutch Allgemeine Zeitung*. The paper says that the pigeons are used for the service of watching the coast; in the journal of the 23th of July, is the following:

"We have often spoken of the use of the carrier pigeons on the continent, says the *Journal of Kiel*, and to-day we have notes which show that the winged messengers have often been employed to correspond between the royal pigeon coop of Tonning, and the floating fires (*feux flottants*) of the mouths of the Ems and the Eder. The pilot association, in official account in their journal, publishes to-day the following statements: 'From the 19th to the 27th of November, 1877, we have sent and received 192 pigeons, bearing 82 despatches from the two floating fires, the one situated 17 and the other 37 marine miles from Tonning. Thanks to the use of the carrier pigeons, by which means the two floating fires could rapidly communicate with the land, we succeeded, on the 9th of November, in saving the ship *Hoche*, which was in distress in these parts; and the pilot boat, which was sent from Barth, succeeded immediately in bringing the ship safely in to Tonning.'

### Annual Show of the Ontario Poultry Association.

Of the many poultry shows held in Guelph last, which closed on Friday, February 28th, was decidedly the most successful; and we think we are safe in saying that no previous show held in Canada has given equal satisfaction to officers, exhibitors and visitors. The officers were indefatigable, from beginning to end, in their efforts to make the show successful in every particular, and we do not believe the most determined grumbler could find a serious cause for complaint. Their patience was considerably tried on Monday and Tuesday by additional entries arriving by every mail, and having fresh arrangements to make for their accommodation; but by noon on Tuesday all the birds were cooped and ready for the inspection of the judges. A few errors were made in cooping the birds, but this could not be wondered at when many of the hampers arrived with several pairs in each, without the slightest mark to guide the committee in their arrangement.

A pleasing feature was the cleanly and wholesome state in which the room was kept; and we hope the officers of all our shows will vie with each other in this particular, thereby making the attraction greater to visitors.

The attendance of visitors was not large, but fanciers were out in force, and the best of feeling