

Poultry and Pigeons.

FIXTURES.

SHOWS.

Industrial Exhibition Association, Toronto, Ont., Sept. 14, and following days. Entries close August 14th. H. J. Hill, Secretary.

Dominion Exhibition. Montreal, Que., Sept. 20 to 24. Entries close Sept. 4. G. Leclerc, Secretary, Montreal.

Provincial Exhibition. Hamilton, Sept. 27, and following days. Entries close August 21. John R. Craig, Secretary, Toronto.

Western Fair, London, Ont., Oct. 4 to 8. Entries close Sept. 25. H. Anderson Secretary.

[Note—Secretaries of shows will oblige by sending on dates as soon as decided upon, and premium lists when ready.]

PRICE OF EGGS.

The following letter elicited by that of "Small Profits" which was published in TOWN AND COUNTRY of May 19th., appears in this month's Poultry Review.

DEAR SIR,—A letter appeared in April number of Review from Mr. W. H. Gibson on the subject of prices.

The sum of Mr. G's arguments were that eggs from exhibition or fancy stock cannot be sold for less than \$3.00 per doz., that the seller may have any profit.

A writer in TOWN AND COUNTRY, over the signature "Small Profits," takes exception to Mr. G's arguments, and by assuming a case, probably based upon his own experience, concludes that eggs can be sold from the best of stock at \$1.00 per doz., and yet a nice profit realized.

Now Sir, permit me to say at the very commencement that as far as these letters refer to these gentlemen personally, I have no desire to meddle, but the subject of prices being public property and a rather important feature in the egg trade, I shall therefore offer a few remarks upon it as quoted by "S. P."

Now in the first place, "S. P.," in my opinion, has entered too much on the Cr. side on hen account, and not enough on the Dr. side, if only the feed be taken into account, and thirty-five settings sold from twenty hens, even at \$1.00 per doz, a balance on right side of the account might be reasonably expected. But the cost of food is a very small item in the expense of procuring and maintaining a yard from which a man can honestly offer eggs for sale from first class stock.

Now, how many fanciers succeed in disposing of 35 settings of eggs from each variety they raise? Not many. Would not 15 for each variety be more nearly the maximum number? I do not mean to say that "S. P." has not sold that number, if he claims that he has, but if these figures be applied to 99 per cent. of the fancy, they will not be correct. In support of this take Thomas' figures as they appeared in Review some time ago, I cannot quote them exactly, not having those numbers on hand, but I am sure his sales did not average over 15 settings to each variety, and he was one of our most successful breeders.

But let us look at the other side of the subject, and in doing so we cannot follow a safer course than to commence at the beginning. A beginner must have birds, and therefore finds himself making the following entry in "hen account." To trio; &c., \$25.00; for if he wants a first-class trio, such birds being in demand, he will have to pay a good price. Now this price is no exaggeration, as I am aware of that price being paid, or the cost was that, a few months ago. There is no doubt that this law of supply and demand regulates the price of eggs as it does all things else. But the beginner is only now commencing his education, and this trio is his book, and in nine cases out of ten at the end of two years he has succeeded

in raising a lot of anything but exhibition birds; and in the meantime he has made several additional entries on the Dr. side—but he has gained knowledge. Now, if this be a true picture, then we see that the knowledge of how to raise fancy poultry costs both time and money to acquire, and for a beginner to mate a lot of very good fowls together without a knowledge of what will be the result, and advertise eggs on the character of that first trio or some other fine specimens he has purchased, and probably gained a prize upon, is not honest; for in advertising he leads the public to think or believe that the eggs purchased of him will produce first class poultry, or a fair per centage of them; and the plea of ignorance on the part of seller is no excuse. But I am wandering from the subject. Now, even if he offers eggs for sale, his sales will not be very large for a few years. But having got fairly started, to maintain the stamina of his flock he must introduce fresh specimens into his yard continually, and one first-class bird would take the shine off fifteen dozen at \$1. We will allow that the eggs produced after hatching season pay for feed.

Again, if his birds are to gain for him such a reputation as will enable him to compete with others, a good house must be provided, and here we come to another formidable debit entry. Again, suitable yards and run-ways are necessary where more than one variety are kept, and even where one is kept, for if his neighbour have fowls he must fence against them, and this will cost money too. But why enlarge; by the time they are well advertised and well exhibited, not to speak of risk, rent of land, or interest of money invested in its purchase, besides subscriptions to poultry journals, &c., we find that to raise fancy fowls costs money, and that a would-be fancier has a great deal to do besides purchasing a few eggs or fowls. And how many ever become successful fanciers? Very few indeed; and if their history be carefully scanned, it will be found in the majority that they are men who have given their most careful attention to one, or at least two, varieties for many years. I agree with "S. P." that in many cases \$1.00 is enough, but where a fancier goes to all the care and expense which is demanded to ensure really first-class stock, I fear it would not pay. When fanciers take no care of their flocks, allow them to run nearly where they will, and keep up their reputation by either purchase or borrowing, any sum would be too dear.

And as far as creating a greater interest in the subject by offering eggs cheap, I fear it will be a failure. It is not the price of eggs that prevents farmers—and until they take a greater interest in it I fear it cannot amount to any great thing in Canada—from improving their poultry, but pure indifference about the matter, and there is some reason for it. Farmers must be made to see that a change is for their advantage before they will adopt it, and at the present time when one becomes convinced of the superiority of the pure-bred over the common, I find that the chief difficulty is not the price, but from whom to purchase, that they may get the genuine article.

In conclusion, permit me to say to my old farming friends that I am at present fencing, and dividing off into run-ways, one acre of orchard, also building a poultry-house for the accommodation of one variety of fowls, and am keeping account of cost. House is 10 by 20 feet, or 2 by 4, lined inside and out, and space filled with concrete, and shall therefore be able to give cost of a rural poultry yard, comfortable yet utterly without ornament, only such as green trees and grass, and beautiful fowls are.

Yours truly,

Lefroy, June 2^d, 1880.

GALLIN.

THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION AND POULTRY.—At the recent meeting of this commission held in London, Mr. John Plummer was examined on the sub-

ject of poultry for the farm, and stated that he bred Light Brahmas, and preferred them to all others. They were good layers, especially in winter, and equally as good sitters. If he lived in the country, he would cross them with game birds. This would produce a hardier fowl, and one better for table use. The climate was especially suitable for Brahmas. The Black Spanish were good layers, but not fitted for table use; they were too tender. The Brahmas were superior to the Dorkings for table use. The latter fatten easily, but do not grow so large; if crossed with the game they would be better egg producers. The Silver Spangled Hamburgs were the best, provided the eggs were sold by number; but if sold by weight, the Leghorns and Black Spanish surpassed them. He had hatched chickens by incubation, but did not have sufficient experience to express an opinion as to the success of the system. Fowls should be fed well, both for market and laying. He fed corn and considerable meat. He had not raised fowl for the market, or had experience in shipping. He considered an increased number of fowl were being raised, as farmers were going into the business more largely.

A Newburg, N. Y., man has a cockrel about six weeks old with a perfectly formed foot growing out of or on the right wing, about half way between the body and main joint or elbow of the wing. The wing itself droops down to the chicken's feet and appears as if it had been broken or injured. The superfluous foot is regularly shaped, with three long toes on which are perfectly formed nails.

Rod and Gun.

On July 19, Messrs. A. Bonnevillie and O. Pepin shot a match at Montreal for the title of champion wing shot of Quebec. The birds were not by any means as good as should be provided for a championship match, and it looked like as if it would be a tie by each man killing his full quota of 20 birds. Pepin, however, missed his last one, and Bonnevillie thus won by one bird. The holder is open to receive challenges.

"Two eggs of the Great Auk have been sold in London, one for 100 gs. and the other for 102 gs." If the Great Auk which laid those eggs had had any idea of their value she would have taken more care of them, while Mr. Auk major would have plumed his feathers and stood a few inches higher in the bird world.

Major Draper returned on Wednesday last from a week's fishing at Anticosti Island. Trout were plentiful, but not a single salmon rewarded the patience and art of either the major or his friend.

Mr. E. Hoddar, of London, Eng., returned to St. Johns on July 19 from a week's fishing on the North-West Miramichi. He started on Monday morning and fished till Saturday at noon, catching fifteen salmon and several grise, the largest catch that has been made in that locality this season.

Mr. Peter McCann, the Fishery Inspector of the London District, has concluded his official visit to the dams and fishways on the River Thames. The one at Cashmere is considered the best, being thirty feet long and the same distance wide. The Springbank fishway is also very good. Saunby's is being repaired, as are also two in Dorchester, while the dam at Byron will have to be reconstructed as soon as the Kenny arbitration is ended.

Messrs. Joseph Rowan and John Connors, of Ottawa, caught a number of bass and pike at Long Island one afternoon last week.

Mr. Buckland tells the following story:—A very nervous man went out fishing on Loch Tay. An immense salmon took the fly and ran the reel out in a most violent manner, the rod shaking and bending with the weight of the fish. The angler—we cannot call him sportsman—was pale with fright. At last as the line had not been fastened to the spindle of the reel, of course the fish ran it clean out and escaped. With that the angler exclaimed: "Thank heaven! the brute's gone; let us go ashore."