

need grain and water they are unconsciously neglected to start with.

Grain is fed lavishly, the corn disappears rapidly, but the hens don't lay. The owner begins to be astonished at the appetite of the pure bred fowls, but thinks that as they don't lay they may not be getting enough to eat, so he determines to give them all they can get down, but still no eggs.

The man who lives next door and "don't take no stock in them fancy chickens" but "keeps 'ens as lays hegs," enquires regularly how the high priced hens are doing, and the owner of said expensive chickens fancies he detects a smile of satisfaction on his neighbours countenance at hearing that the imported hens have not commenced to lay and he secretly begins to wish that the hens were back in China, and that confounded fellow next door with them.

After purchasing the birds, which in itself is no inconsiderable item, and building a house for them and getting no eggs in return, he begins to think that thoroughbred fowls are a delusion and a snare: but it has never occurred to him that had he treated his fancy stock in the same way that his neighbour does his mongrel hens, viz:—Full freedom, liberty to scratch in the dung heap, and very little food, beyond what they find themselves, his thoroughbred hens would, in all probability, have done even better in the way of egg production than the mongrel hens, but he has so gorged his fowls that they have become very fat and consequently will not lay in that condition. I say in all probability they would have done better than the mongrels, because it does not follow that all pure-bred birds will rival, as layers, the mongrel stock.

Then where is their superiority? I fancy I hear somebody ask.

I will endeavour to explain why thoroughbred fowls are more highly valued than mongrels.

Very few pure-bred hens of any breed will lay 150 eggs in a year, and

are valued at from \$2.00 each upwards, while the mongrel hen sells at 25c. to 60c., each according to locality and season, and putting her yield of eggs at 75 for the year, (but she will do better than this), she then commands only one-eighth the price of the pure-bred and lays half the number of eggs. Then if you want a roasting fowl, perhaps your mongrel fowl is just as large and just as good eating, I say perhaps, because it will not always be the case. In this case the 25 cent mongrel is just as good as the \$2.00 pure-bred.

Then why is that thorough-bred hen valued at eight times the price of the mongrel? it is not so immensely superior as a layer or as a table fowl.

(To be Continued.)

MONTREAL NOTES.

BY MONTREAL.

I noticed in the report of the London Society, that the speakers were enthusiastic in favor of our Canadian judges. Among the best of men able to judge a bird is that well-known Montreal fancier, Thomas Costen, the oldest fancier I think in this province. At the late show in Ottawa, owing to the sickness of the judge, he took a part of the show and I believe gave general satisfaction. He is thoroughly in sympathy with the scoring system and I hope next winter some of our shows will be able to secure his services.

It is surprising to me that so many influential fanciers, in different parts of the country, do not take a more active part in the different Societies. Men whose names stand well in the community are very helpful as a guarantee that the shows will be run with the strictest integrity, and a genuine fancier ought to be willing to sacrifice a little time to uphold the interests of his pets.

I was shown a letter that Thomas Costen had received from a customer in the North-West Territories, saying,

that notwithstanding the very long distance the birds had travelled they had arrived in very good condition and were fully equal to what they had been described. These sort of letters are great encouragement to men who send out what they represent and also dispatch birds in the very pink of condition, so that they arrive hundreds of miles west of Winnipeg in first-class condition. The shipment consisted of Light Brahmas and Plymouth Rocks.

Thomas Hall the Lansdowne Brahma man is doing an immense business in eggs this spring. I hope at the close of the season to give the number of settings sent out. This is another proof that there is more in exhibiting than the mere prize money. He has a fine lot of chicks on hand and hopes to repeat his triumphs of last winter next season.

Wm. Cox tells me he has a fine lot of Black Red chicks. He imports largely from the old country but his space is very limited and prevents him from keeping the large number of breeding pens he would like.

A. P. Dawes, of Lachine, has a fine lot of Black Leghorns. He is one of our youngest fanciers but hopes to make a name for himself in the fancy before long.

While in New York T. Costen purchased a very pretty pair of Pekin Bants; these are very beautiful little pets and those who have seen them pronounce them the gem of the bantam family.

SEAFORTH SOCIETY DOWN ON MR. JARVIS.

Editor Review:

The Huron Poultry and Pet Stock Association wish to place on record in your valuable journal, its disapprobation of Mr. Jarvis as a judge of poultry, and declare that they, as a body, decline