

\$1,200. I would also suggest that a scheme something like the following should be agreed upon. In 1892 let the show go to Ottawa. In 1893 Kingston, Peterboro or Bowmanville. In 1894 Toronto. In 1895 Hamilton, Guelph or St Catharines. In 1896 London. In this way it would have been twice east of Toronto, and twice west every five years.

I am quite certain from what I know of the poultry fraternity in and around Ottawa, that if a course similar to above were fully explained it would meet with their approval. I am almost positive a scheme of this kind would be in every way acceptable to the Province. In the first place it would only be necessary for the Ontario board of directors and those of Ottawa to come to some understanding regarding the terms of amalgamation, then select a sub-committee from the two boards and formulate a scheme to present to the Hon. Mr. Drury, Minister of Agriculture for his consideration. I am satisfied that if the plans presented are what I am sure they can be made, the Government will see at a glance that it will be largely to the benefit of the Province and indeed our Dominion. Why, the eggs exported last year were over two million dollars and we are put down as the second largest egg exporting country in the world. I hope the board of directors will not allow this matter to rest here and that others more able than I will give their views and that ere long it will be adjusted.

If Ottawa directors will make known to the Ontario board of directors what they consider themselves justly and fairly entitled to, I am quite certain from what I know of the new board of directors of the Ontario Poultry Association just elected at St. Catharines, their desires would meet with approval. As I said before "Unity is Strength." If I can be of any use to aid the amalgamation and the procuring of increased grant, you know where to find me.

I am yours, &c.,

JOSEPH DILWORTH.

Toronto.

For the POULTRY WEEKLY

More than Feathers Astray.

IN your issue of Jan. 8th, under the caption of "Stray Feathers" I find a communication from Robert Rayson. In this communication he excuses or rather tries to excuse the barbarous practice of caponing. Now Mr. Editor I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your manly and humane stand in this matter. It shows a sense of humanity and refinement in your makeup that may be born in a man but can seldom, I might say

never, be made in him. Your correspondent goes on to claim that because horses and other animals are castrated that it is perfectly legitimate and humane to treat the fowls thus. He even refers to a practice of thus mutilating cats. Well it may be customary in some places but—well I don't want to say what I think about such a locality. At the best the question is decidedly abstruse as to the profits arising from caponing in Canada. The subject has to be kept until eighteen months old to be at the best, and in no Canadian market will it fetch money enough to pay for a year's feeding, much less eighteen months. As you say in your comments the small pecuniary loss sustained by "losing even a large per centage of the victims—I can call them nothing else" leads many with a certain amount of curiosity and a small amount of humanity or regard for the suffering of lower animals to do a considerable amount of torturing under the guise of experimenting. Again a cockerel at six or eight months old is equally as toothsome as any capon and very few people could tell the difference, in fact the cull cockerels we eat at home are decidedly superior to the restaurant and hotel capon. As to the operations performed on horses and pigs it is of a less painful nature in most instances as any one acquainted with the operations is aware, and the gain is a great many hundred percent greater, and in fact in many instances almost an absolute necessity to the safety of life and limb. To those people—and there are many of them who care nothing about the suffering inflicted on dumb animals—caponing may seem a profitable operation and I have known men to try it just out of curiosity to see whether they could do it or not; but such a one is unworthy of the respect of an honest man. Trusting Mr Editor that you may be spared to contend for humane principles I am

HUMANITY.

Fortunately or unfortunately we have had no experience in hotel capons in Canada. But we must in justice say an "old country capon" is fine eating. Perhaps our correspondent has had the misfortune to dine off a 'slip, they then lose the delicate flavor and peculiar juicy condition of flesh which belongs to a true capon alone. We have before now dined out when 'venison' on the menu was simply a haunch of mutton a little "gone," doing duty for the buck. Maybe, methinks, the Canadian "hotel capon" was of the same order of imposition. There are times when dining