

Poultry Department

Edited by

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To whom all communications, items of news, &c., on this subject should be addressed.

DATES.

Toronto, Dec. 8th to 11th inclusive.
Guelph, O. P. A., Jan. 12th to 15th inclusive.
Owen Sound, Jan. 14th to 17th, inclusive.
Stratford, immediately following O. P. A. Show.
Listowel, Jan. 19th, 20th and 21st.
Bowmanville, Feb. 3rd, 4th and 5th, J. Y. Bicknell, judge.

Poultry Notes.

Mr. J. Y. Bicknell writes us from Buffalo that all his time for judging this winter is already taken up, and that he is refusing invitations daily. Secretaries, remember this, please.

Mr. Aldrieve, of Kingston, writes us that the exhibit of fowls at that Fair was very fine, and the competition close. He thinks the prize winners will be hard to beat at the winter shows.

We hear from Mr. Odell, of Sherbrooke, that they had a fine exhibition there. Judging from the prize list he, Mr. F. James, and Mr. Bonneville, of Dutton, seem to have taken the lion's share of red tickets.

Our Canadian friends are again agitating the question of scoring. It seems to be a popular demand, opposed by a few old fogies who cling to old methods, only because the methods are old.—*Poultry Bulletin*.

We had, recently, the pleasure of a visit from Mr. Bogue Smart, of Brockville. He is an enthusiastic W. F. B. Spanish fancier, and tells us that in an exhibiting tour through New York State this fall, he captured no less than 35 prizes, including 30 firsts.

Mr. Murton writes us with regard to the Ontario Association Show at Guelph (the ad of which appears in another column), that "a large special list will be got up, and published in good time. Mr. John Nunn, the well known Black Spanish breeder, will give a silver medal for the bird scoring the highest number of points."

We hear that the arrangements for the great International Show, to be held at New York next February, are about complete. We understand that the foreign department is to be placed in the hands of Spratts Patent, the celebrated English poultry and dog supplies firm. No doubt the entries from England will be very numerous. Why should not our Canadian fanciers club together and hire a car and try their luck? It seems to us altogether a feasible idea. Let us have suggestions as to the best way.

The Brahma (Continued.)

THE TORONTO SHOW.

Editor Review.

Again, unless recourse is had to incubators, etc., which are never likely to come into general use, some sitting variety must necessarily be kept to do the sitting. For the life of me I cannot understand where the advantage is in having an absolutely non-sitting variety. Why it would not be as cheap in every way to have a hen sit on her own eggs as to provide a substitute is something in henology I do not yet clearly understand. Therefore, as a general purpose bird, especially where only one variety is kept—and I think where people keep fowls either for pleasure or profit only one variety ought to be kept, though it took me a long time to learn this practically—I am led to conclude that the Brahma is, in this respect, almost, if not altogether, perfect.

THE TORONTO SHOW.

But at this point I feel disposed to offer a few remarks upon the coming shows. That Toronto possesses natural facilities for making an exhibition of an agricultural character, a success is apparent. And that the Toronto fanciers have gone exactly the right way to work to supplement these natural advantages by intelligent provisions and inducements will not be denied by many.

Now, to the beginner, let me say: Do not let this opportunity pass without taking advantage of it. It is just what you need; indeed, I may say what we need, for after seven years of careful study and observation, aided by the best books and periodicals, I find that with a score card in my hand and the living bird before me, I can educate the eyes to detect defects, etc., much more quickly than by any other means. But I think we cannot better understand the value of the opportunity now offered by Toronto to the fanciers of Canada, especially to the younger ones, and it may be to a few more advanced in the mysteries of poultry breeding, than by considering what is the primary object of these exhibitions. I believe that not a little of the misunderstanding that has arisen in Canada respecting judging has had its origin just here.

A great many seem to have the notion that all that is required is to determine correctly who have a right to the prizes; and they therefore argue "if I can do this correctly by the old system what need of a new?" "So correctly can I do this," they say, "that scoring can't change one award that I make." Again, we have heard it remarked, "Let the beginners learn as we did." Then why ask or expect a beginner to attend or exhibit at a show? But any man can see in a moment that the first and by far the most important object of these shows is to teach, to educate. Indeed the prizes are only offered as a stimulant, and will yet be acknowledged as a hindrance rather than a help, as they have been in our schools. Now, the