

Pigeon and Pet Stock Department.

THE JUDGING AND REPORTING OF PIGEONS AT THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

Editor Review:

I HAVE generally been well pleased with the judging of pigeons at Toronto, but this year several of the awards in Owls, Tumblers and Carriers, and the whole judging of Dragoons has been a great surprise to me. So far as Owls and Tumblers are concerned, the mistakes are very clear in a few cases. It is stated that a prize was given to a silver cock for a hen. This bird was not entered as a hen, but a good hen fit to win was shown, the misplacing of the birds in the pens was responsible for this error and neither the owner nor the judge.

Some of the Carriers winning prizes were so overgrown and relaxed in wattle, eye cere, etc., that they seemed to me to be monstrosities, and not normal birds. Giving prizes should be regulated by the effect that the act might have on breeding, educating young fanciers, the general public, etc. In this case it must be bad.

I am wholly at a loss to explain the judging of Dragoons. Finer birds have never been shown in America, but they did not get the prizes. Possibly the judge took age into account and argued that certain birds were better for age, but if so why was not the same principle applied to Carriers. The winner of 2nd in black cocks is only a last year's bird and as such by far the best in the show—perhaps the best anyway because he is so evenly balanced all through.

With about two exceptions the

Dragoons given prizes were not typical in size or general shape, while several birds, perfect in these respects were wholly overlooked.

When it is said that several of the winners were correct in color of beak and eye cere about all their good points are covered. They were not big or cobby enough in body or heavy enough in head, beak and wattle—in fact were comparative culls in these points. A very curious thing was the awarding of a prize to a silver-chequered hen and passing by the cock far superior to her according to English notions. The silvers, whites and silver-chequers were correct even to color of beak, eye cere, etc., and the others scored so in general type that they should have been to the front. I had several birds at home that could have won according to this year's judging—youngsters—but they are far from being the equal of their parents shown, according to the correct Standard.

It seems impossible to get Dragoons correctly judged in America, and I hope some good English judge will be sent out for the World's Fair at Chicago, and that some English winners will be there also. Mr. Wagner's report is on the whole good; but as regards Carriers it is a "whitewashing" one, and in the case of Dragoons an instance either of the same or of "the blind leading the blind." One way and another Dragoons are having a hard time of it in America, and I hope better days will soon dawn.

Truly yours,

MOUNT ROYAL.

[We refrain from any comment other than to state as a matter of fact that the hens winning 1st in blues and 1st in

A.O.C. (a blue-chequer) have won in some of the best English shows and are now even better than ever, being two years old and in their prime. Several of the others have also been placed at good English shows. Mr. Wagner and the judge will probably reply (without undue warmth we trust) to "Mount Royal's" letter, which contains a nasty insinuation as to the report not worthy of the man. Then we may have something more to say. Ed.]

INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION TORONTO.

FROM THE JUDGE.

A LITTLE advice to our representatives of the Industrial I think, would not be out of place. I think our prize list might be improved by giving larger prizes, and by adding more sections to the list, it would encourage the fanciers to import first class birds, and it is time we had our building remodelled and "Spratts" improved wire coops for the pigeons and bantams. We are behind the age with them, our coops are strong enough to fence a town lot in with, the birds cannot be seen as they should. It cannot be denied but that the Pigeons and Pet Stock are greatly admired by thousands, and the representatives should place their grievances very plainly before the Board and I am sure they are a progressive lot of gentlemen, they only want facts laid plainly before them and they would soon fall into line and give our wants due consideration. Just look at our Rabbits, Cavies and all our ornamental class huddled up in boxes of no uniformity. They should be in nice wire coops, and spread out so that they may be seen by every one and make