

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS.

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(A Paper read at the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Ontario Poultry and Pet Stock Association.)

THE paper I propose to read to you is on the Plymouth Rock. I have bred this variety for ten years. They are termed the American idol, but I think they are Canada's idol as well. The strongest proof of the superiority of this breed is that it has successfully stood the booms of a score of new varieties, has met and vanquished each one, and still lives. Other breeds have their booms, but the Plymouth Rock keeps on its steady course. It has never had a boom in its history; its favor has been won by merit. For meat, size, laying qualities, vigor, quick growing and attractiveness combined, there is no breed that will not suffer by comparison. They are a great favorite with farmers and market poultry men, who breed this variety more extensively than all other pure breeds combined. They thrive anywhere, are rapid growers, and make plump, juicy broilers at from eight to twelve weeks old. As a market fowl they have no successful rival among the pure breeds. They stand acknowledged without an equal as the best general purpose fowl bred. The Plymouth Rocks are good all-the-year-round layers. Many breeds stop laying during the winter, but the steady-going Plymouth Rocks bid defiance to the season, provided their house is warm and they are well supplied with food convertible into eggs. They always mature early, are splendid foragers, fast growers and compactly built.

The barred Plymouth Rock is nearly always the largest class at our shows, and strictly choice specimens command a higher price than any other breed—which proves their sterling merits. New breeds come and go, but the great qualities of the Plymouth Rocks become more and more indelible. As a practical fowl, suited to the wants and condition of those who desire eggs, meat and feathers combined in the one breed, they acknowledge no competitor.

I would like to say that the importance of rigorous selection cannot be too strongly urged. It is the mainstay of good breeding. If you cannot mate up a large yard, mate a small one, but mate your best layers and best specimens, and don't breed from culls.

Fanciers are a benefit to a community. Wherever poultry shows have been held there has usually been a great improvement in the size of the poultry in the surrounding country. A fixed standard for a breed is very important. Without one those differing in opinion would breed to different standards, and in that way they would lose their characteristics or tendencies. Without doubt, great good has been accomplished by fanciers. They have increased the number of those who keep the fowls, have spread a knowledge of proper care, and multiplied the desirable breeds. Fanciers take more pains to secure at any cost the best breeding stock they can get, so that they may keep up the utility breeds.

SHOW DATES.

CANADA'S Great Fair and Industrial Exhibition, Toronto, Sept. 2nd to 14th, H. J. Hill, Secretary, Toronto.

Midland Central Fair, Kingston, Sept. 2nd to 7th, John P. Oram, Kingston.

Quebec Provincial Exhibition, Montreal, Que., Sept. 12th to 21st, S. C. Stevenson, Montreal, Que.

Western Fair, London, Sept. 12th to 21st, Thomas A. Browne, London.

Central Canada Exhibition, Ottawa, Sept. 20th to 28th, E. McMahon, Ottawa.



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