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THE STATUS OF THE INDIAN GAME.

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IT is nice, sometimes to consider just where a variety of fowls stands. No fowl remains in just the same position year after year. It changes places relatively with other breeds or absolutely with respect to its position in former years.

The Indian Game has been long enough with us to demonstrate what its real qualities are. It has gone through the period of injudicious booming by enthusiastic well-wishers, and has settled down upon its real merits. From this time forward the fowl will be subject to no great boom, but will submit to the test of time.

What is its present *status*?

1st. Practically considered. No one now, who wishes to keep a fowl exclusively or chiefly for egg-production, purchases a flock of Indian Games. While, for so excellent a fowl in other respects, it is a fair layer, it is well understood that there are better breeds for this purpose. It is now kept for the excellent poultry it produces, and for this purpose is bred purely or is used for crossing upon other breeds. Various Experiment Stations have tested its merits and they emphatically indorse the Indian Game for table poultry. To cross upon other breeds for this purpose it has no equal. It stands alone in this respect.

2nd. From a fancy point. If the exhibitions are any sure test upon the matter, the Indian Game, as a show fowl, has fallen off in popularity. While respectable classes are still exhibited at the leading shows, and while these classes average larger than those of any other Game fowl, yet they are not so large as they used to be. There was a time when the Indian Game class was one of the largest, if not the largest, in the principal shows. That can not be said now, though the present classes indicate a large popularity. In show qualities we think the males have made considerable

advance. The birds are really handsomer than they were, and the combs in particular, are better. The females, on the other hand, have retrograded. Judges have given too many prizes to the very dark hens, and these hens can not compare in beauty with those whose ground color is a bright golden bay. The contrast between the ground color and the lacings is lacking in these very dark hens and this contrast is one of the chief elements of beauty in the Indian Game. We are glad to note, however, that judges are beginning to return to first principles and that these lighter and more beautiful hens are beginning to win over their darker sisters.

3rd. The actual number of breeders of Indian Games seems to have increased. While now and then one of the older breeders has deserted this grand breed, new recruits have filled up the ranks and the number has actually increased. And with the restoration of the golden bay hens to their proper place, the popularity of the breed, we believe, will increase.

The present *status*, while not what we believe it might have been, is by no means discouraging, the outlook for the future is very bright, and the Indian Game breeder has a right to feel satisfied with the present position and future prospects of the fowl.

PROFITABLE POULTRY KEEPING.

BY T. A. WILLIAMS, TORONTO, ONT.

(Continued.)

AS previously stated the most satisfactory brooder is one that may be used with equal facility either indoors or out-doors, very early in the season say in January, February or March and possibly part of April. Such a brooder must of course be used in a building of some sort, in short any and all brooders during the winter months must be so protected, but the building need not be