

For every five new subscribers at \$1.00 each I will give one setting of eggs from any variety I breed except Black Hamburgs.

SHARP BUTTERFIELD.
Sandwich, Ont.

J. E. Horsman has made a reduction in his price for Bantam eggs.

Game fanciers, read the card of Mr M. H. Richey, Jr., Halifax, N. S.

A card from Mr. H. M. Thomas informs us that he is enjoying the pleasure of entertaining a number of Canadian friends at his residence, Camden, Delaware, and cannot find time this month to contribute to our pages.

Shows to Occur.

Industrial Exhibition, Association of Toronto, —From 1st to 19th September, 1879. H. J. Hill, Secretary.

Provincial Exhibition, Ottawa.—Date not announced; probably 22nd to 26th of September.

Central Fair, Hamilton.—Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Sept. 30th, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Oct., 1879 Jonathan Davis, Secy.

The Western Fair, London.—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Sept 29th, 30th, and Oct. 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1879. W. McBride, Secy.

The Rock River Valley Poultry and Pet Stock Association will hold its first annual exhibition at Sterling Ills, in December, 1879, from the 9th to 12th, inclusive. R. H. THOMAS, Secy.

INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO.—On another page will be found the advertisement of this association. Their show will be the first of the season, and every effort will be made to make it a grand success in every particular.—Committee of Management of poultry department: Messrs. W. H. Doel, (chairman,) A. McGregor, P. J. Edwards, W. H. Howland and Ald. T. Allen. The list is very complete and liberal; about \$750 is offered in prizes on poultry, pigeons, dogs, cage birds and other small pets. Entries close first week in August. Get a prize list at once.

The Fall Shows and Poultry.

No one, we presume, will attempt to deny the value and importance of poultry exhibitions. Were they entirely abolished, the interest in fancy stock would soon become nearly extinct among the mass of the people, the work of years would be lost, and a retrograde movement would at once take the place of improvement and advancement. But while those exhibitions devoted specially to fancy stock are of primary importance in continuing and stimulating the public interest, the various township and county exhibitions held during the fall are by no means unworthy of notice. These shows extend over a wide area, and are visited by the masses of the people, so that a proper degree of attention paid to poultry and fancy stock at all of them would have even a greater influence in the

right direction than is now exerted by poultry exhibitions proper. At nearly all of these shows prizes are offered for poultry, but for several reasons they are not satisfactory. The manner in which the prize lists are made up is enough, in most instances, to convince the progressive fancier that they are the work of men who have little knowledge of the valuable additions made to our varieties during the past few years. The most valuable varieties are often ignored altogether, while others of ancient date, or now almost obsolete, are prominently mentioned. The facilities for showing fowls are often very defective, and no shelter or coops are provided. Great lack of judgment is shown in the appointment of judges, who are often quite incompetent, and it is not uncommon to hear them say, when brought to account for some error, "I don't pretend to know much about poultry."

As the preparation for the fall shows will soon be in progress, poultry fanciers should lose no time in bringing all their influence to bear to remedy these evils, and secure the position to which they are justly entitled. The directors of the several local shows may not always be possessed of a vast or extensive knowledge of poultry, but they will generally be found open to argument, and when the matter is fairly presented to them, will in most cases be ready to do what is right and reasonable. First of all let an effort be made to improve the prize list by giving encouragement as far as the funds under their control will allow, to the most valuable varieties of fowls; then let an effort be made to have judges appointed who are thoroughly competent, and can at once have confidence in the justice of their own awards, and inspire the respect and concurrence of exhibitors and the public; next let some pressure be brought to bear to secure sufficient accommodation. The accomplishment of these results would be exceedingly beneficial to the poultry interests of the Dominion, and will require the co-operation and active exertion of all the breeders of poultry throughout the country.—One difficulty that stands in the way is the lack of appreciation of the value and importance of poultry among the directors of agricultural societies. The prevalent feeling is that fowls are of very small account indeed in comparison with horses, cattle, sheep, grain, &c. This feeling must be combated with such arguments as may easily be brought to bear by the enlightened fancier, and by getting in the thin end of the wedge this year, an opening will be made for still greater improvement next year. A few good blows each year will soon open the way to gain for the poultry interest the place which is its just due.

This year let us have the prize lists revised and increased, competent judges appointed, and better accommodation provided; another year will bring its demands for further improvements, to keep up the interest in the work.

We trust the fanciers of the Dominion will not fail to devote some time and attention to the fall shows, with a view to obtaining better recognition for their specialty, and a place more in keeping with its importance for this rising branch of Canadian industry.