

pea combs, are also found in the same flock. Deep reddish yellow legs and skins predominate, and the majority have clean legs, although a certain proportion are apt to have feathers on shanks, varying in degree from a little down to one-third or fourth as much leg feathering as the average Brahma.

Their color is between that of the brown Leghorn and the buff Cochin, and the females are somewhat like the females of the Indian Game-light Brahma cross. A certain proportion of the pullets still come with the mahogany color and general markings of the Malay female, even where two-thirds or more are a deep reddish bay color throughout (with the exception of the slight dark lacing on neck hackle and black in tail). In some flocks the majority of the females run almost a faded light yellow, while the males are not very much darker. In others they go to the other extreme, and have much black in wings and neck, and brown penciling or mottled feathers on breast or back.

#### IMPROVED.

However, the clear dark red birds are the favorites, even with the farmers. A few town breeders have made selections of these and bred to vastly improve them in uniformity of color. Some have bred only from single comb birds, and discarded all others. Others have bred each separately, but frequently the single and rose comb birds sold are bred from the same pen.

As Rhode Island Red stock has been largely drawn on in building the modern buff Plymouth Rock and buff Wyandotte, and as birds suited to this purpose sold more readily and brought most money, the tendency among some Rhode Island Red fanciers has been to breed out all dark lacing in hackle, as well as the black in tail and wings. Judges at exhibitions have also favored birds of this sort. This has caused some strains to lose these general and distinguishing characteristics of the Rhode Island Red, and left it no ground on which to stand in the fancier's eyes, except as a feeder of material for buff Plymouth Rocks and buff Wyandottes.

#### THE NEW STANDARD FOR THIS BREED.

The Rhode Island Red Club, however, realizing this fact, have adopted a standard calling for slightly laced or ticked hackles in pullets, and allowing black in wings and tail. Recognizing the present tendency of

the breed to slightly feathered legs or down on shanks, they also provide that no bird shall be disqualified unless the feathers appearing upon shanks or toes have a perceptible quill. They also agree that single and rosecomb birds should compete separately at exhibitions. Earlobes should be red but are not to be disqualified if they show some white. Back and breast of males are of a much deeper red than those of pullets.

#### SHAPE.

We have observed that in shape the Rhode Island Red is not so long-legged and angular as the Plymouth Rock, or so round bodied, chunky or, apparently, so short bodied as the Wyandotte. Does not stand so high on its legs as the Wyandotte, and is longer in body and a pound less in weight (yet very wide, deep and plump). It stands more like an American Dominique or Dorking. Shanks appear to join the body and thighs appear to be very short.

#### DOES NOT WISH TO SAIL UNDER FALSE COLORS.

#### EDITOR REVIEW:—

**I** THINK the Secretary-Treasurer of the Montreal Poultry Association must be "took worse."

In the "Montreal Star," just after the last show, he gave me credit for first on black Minorca hen, second on cock and second on cockerel, I advertised my birds accordingly and some weeks after I received third prize tickets for cock and cockerel and second prize money for hen as you publish them in the REVIEW.

I did not expect to do very well at the show as I had to leave home just before and my birds did not get any preparation and were in very poor show shape. My Minorca cock came home with a piece cut out of the rear brace of his comb, which caused it to lean to one side and has just about spoiled him for showing. I would like this published as I don't want my birds to sail under any false colors.

I have been booming the REVIEW here and you will notice that the list of subscribers has increased quite a bit during the last year in Compton. I only wish more would take it as it is very hard to get people to take any interest in poultry in this part of the country.

I remain, yours truly,

E. C. PARKER.

Compton, Que., April 14th, 1899.