

feathers thrown outside the door, indicated that chicken would form the principal item of the next bill of fare at that particular shanty - *Steveston Enter prize.*

EDITOR HARKLER of the *Fanciers' Monthly* amuses himself in the Dec. number of that excellent paper at the expense of the editor of the *Seattle Poultry Journal*, who got excited because the assertion was made that the *Fanciers' Monthly* had more readers in the Pacific Northwest than any other paper of its class. The joke is a good one and is appreciated even in British Columbia.

THE Premium List of the Nebraska State Poultry Association is at hand and to use their own words is "Designed to attract the attention of those breeders who are fearless of competition and who understand the value of a score card." The Association held its 11th annual at Lincoln Jan. 16-19. They pay substantial prizes as will be seen by the following: First prize on pen \$6., second \$4., third \$2., on single birds it is, first prize \$3., second \$2., third \$1.

If one can't go to California and see those feathered beauties that live there the next best thing is to have a picture of them. Mr. J. W. Fergus of Santa Cruz has remembered the **FANCIER** with a fine photograph of his yards. The whole thing is well arranged and indicates lots of push. The Barred Rocks, Brown Leghorns, Black Minorcas and Pekin ducks are happy there we are sure. Mr. Fergus is a new man on the Coast, but we could do with lots more just like him.

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SPECIAL PRIZES.

WRITTEN FOR B. C. FANCIER.

To anyone who exhibits much, or peruses many prize lists, it must occur, that the list of specials often has peculiar features. But in nearly every case a *reason* exists for these seeming peculiarities. Let us enumerate some of them. First there is the special donated by Moses White "for the best Buff Cochin," so stated by Moses because "he always thought the Buff Cochin was a fine hen." That settles special No. 1 very acceptably to all concerned, and Moses who hasn't owned a chicken for years, renews his interest at the show, as he points out to his friends the "proper beauty" that has won his special-prize.

Next comes the special given by Mr.

Browne, an enthusiastic breeder and fancier of Brown Leghorns. "For the best display of Brown Leghorns," he himself competing for same, and either winning or losing it, according to what opposition he meets. Now the trouble begins. If Mr. Browne is beaten, all right he gets the laugh, but if he wins it all *wrong*, for he is charged with having schemed for a prize he knew he felt sure of winning. If he wants to encourage the breed, but is afraid of criticism, and abstains from the contest for the principal special, it falls to his chief rival perhaps, who advertises his victory widely, to the detriment of poor Mr. Browne who not only *gave* the special, but had the birds on hand to *win* it easily, if he were not too thin-skinned to live up to his rights.

Fanciers often arrange these things among themselves on the "back-scratching" principle, by each agreeing to offer a special of a certain value, on the variety named by the other. And Specialty Clubs extend the principle in one way, by generalizing the donor, and limit it in another way, by excluding exhibitors who are not club members. But the basis of *right*, upon which Special No. 2 really rests, may be stated thus—If Mr. Browne chooses to offer a special, say \$10. in gold, for the best display of Brown Leghorns, *open to all*," and competes for it himself, it must be regarded as though Mr. Browne was willing, for several reasons, to wager \$10. *to nothing* that he would have the best display of those birds at that show. That is the *worst* light to which it can be looked upon, and if he wins it, the beaten competitors should have nothing to say, unless they would like to apologize for having competed in a sweepstake to which they didn't contribute.

However, if a man should offer a special on such restricted terms that either he, or any other exhibitor was known to be sure of winning it, it is plainly the Society's duty to decline it in that form, So much for special No. 2.

The third species is the special, donated by a "Friend of the Society," and his name fortunately is Legion, with a capital L. for the Society can't do without him. Special No. 3, is for instance the amount which, *the Prize Committee* says, Mr. Numerous has donated "for the highest scoring Black Langshan cockerel," Mr. Numerous, as a matter of fact, having had, by his own desire, *nothing to do with it* but to furnish the funds. Now, it is the duty of the prize Committee, in justice to all con-

cerned, to allot all such specials in such a way as will place the best awards on the largest classes, according to an estimate of entries which they ought to be capable of making, accurately enough for this purpose. If therefore you find that there is a \$5. special for best Barred Rock, same for best Black Minorca, same for best Andalusian, and nothing for best Wyandotte, look through the prize list for an advertisement of "Andalusians exclusively," smile very guardedly, and say to yourself "That gentleman must be on the Prize Committee of *this here show*." NEMO.

BARGAIN COLUMN.

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WANTED, an agent in B. C. for my publications, the *Canadian Poultry Review* and the *Canadian Kennel Gazette*. To the right man a liberal commission will be paid and a special department opened for the Province if necessary. References required. **H. B. Donovan**, Toronto. 4