

gether mistaken idea. He but seeks to provide as nearly as possible for his birds in confinement, such food as his observation has taught him they seek for themselves when at liberty. And the more nearly he can supply such material as they procure for themselves, the nearer he approaches to a natural system of feeding. There is nothing artificial in giving gravel, oyster shell, coarser kinds of food, straw, cut hay, etc. Friend Mortimer rightly says 'trash.' I dare say it looks to every breeder "dirty trash," which is going a step farther still. I must say according to my notions and feelings I should decline with thanks the invitation of the most highly bred "male or female rooster," to share his or her supper on the manure pile. I would decline even to go halves in a worm, yea, a butterfly itself would not tempt me, but then tastes differ "yer know." So let us provide as far as possible the insect life, the coarser elements of food such as husk, hay refuse, litter piles from the stables, shell, gravel, green food, dust boxes to take the place of the open ground in summer, clean pure water, etc., in fact such a mixture, as near as possible, as the birds pick up in the summer, when at liberty to catch the early worms and such like delicacies themselves. I think that sheaf oats and wheat, is one of the best foods; the birds eat a surprising quantity of the husk, and it is such a splendid plan for exercise to thresh it out themselves that I never think of going into winter quar without it. I give the loose grain and simply throw in enough sheaf stuff to keep them busy; one day oats, another wheat. Compare it with results and it is not at all as expensive as it may appear at first, and then there is the benefit of the straw besides.

Mr. Editor, I beg room for a short notice of the accommodation for poultry at Collingwood Agricultural Fair, as intimated in my last letter to Review. The great Northern Exhibition needs no words of mine to extend its

fame. It is as well known and popular as your great Industrial, and deservedly so. But I am to confine my remarks to the poultry department. The building devoted to poultry exhibits is large and well lighted, the coops are a good size, but the fronts are covered with laths too close to allow the birds to be seen to advantage, but it is promised that wire fronts shall be added this year. Some idea of the extent of the exhibit there may be gained when I tell you that round the sides the coops are three tiers deep, and in the centre block of coops which face both ways there are four tiers, and even with this accommodation there are a large number of birds have to be shown in exhibitor's own coops. The last two years an entry fee of ten cents per coop has been paid, with the result that a larger exhibit and much finer stock has been shown. Major Lloyd of Newmarket was the judge this year and gave perfect satisfaction as nearly as it can be done. The management are getting quite enthusiastic over this department, which is growing a "big boy" on their hands, and if they only carry out the plans proposed this year their poultry building will be one of the best that can be desired. With such a chickenman as Mr. H. Foreman in their midst, with two or three others not far behind, fanciers cannot fail to feel they are "to hum" in the pretty town of Collingwood. Our feathered friends in the same town some sixteen years ago could have been counted on your two hands; I mean, our *respectable* feathered friends, those which approached the nearest to the thoroughbred of to-day. Few would have thought it possible that in less than ten years there would be several classes of thoroughbred birds on exhibition. For I asked more than once in those days where I could obtain some thoroughbred birds; and more than once I was asked what kind they were, and told that they did not know what I meant. However the Great Northern has for years encour-

aged to the utmost of its power and fostered by its interest, one of the greatest commercial industries of the present day; one too that promises to be great amidst the greatest, in the near future. Their prize list has been liberal and classes for young and old are now the general order. The management has been improving the last two years, and ere long all will be complete for birds and exhibitors. One thing is certain it is going ahead as fast as possible, and wishing it increased success and usefulness I will conclude this short note on a very large subject.

Well St. Catharines is over, and according to Mrs. Peter it was a sight well worth seeing, I really don't know which she admired the most—the birds or their owners—but this is what I have to hear Mr. Editor. "Mr. McNeil was so kind and trimmed my darling banty for me, and his birds were lovely. And so were Mr. So and So's birds; and he and all of them were so kind to me. And oh, you ought to have been there to see Mr. So and So he is such a nice fellow, and he had some beautiful Rocks, or Cochins, or darling little Bantams, etc." Now Mr. Editor I am sure you pity me from the bottom of your heart, but still it has a good side to it after all for Mrs. P. returned home happy and fresh from the week that I dreaded to let her go through; and my thanks are due, and I hereby beg to tender them, to those officers of the association and gentlemen who so kindly helped to make the labor light and the time pleasant for her, some of them are not known to me personally, but I hope before long to have the pleasure of their acquaintance.

Yours truly,

W. C. G. PETER.

It is with deep regret I hear of the continued serious illness of our respected President Rev. W. H. Barnes. He is just now reported to be very low. I am sure the afflicted family have the sincere wishes of the community for his speedy recovery.