

MESSRS. BIRREL & JOHNSON, of Greenwood, Ont., have purchased the heifer, "Golden Drop 3rd," from Mr. John Russel, of Pickering, Ont.

MR. SNELL'S Show Cow, "Golden Drop," sold at their recent sale for \$1225

MR. GIBSON, of London Township, bought "Golden Drop 2nd" at Thomson's Sale for \$1005.

Four of this popular family were sold at the recent Canadian sales, at an aggregate of \$4,260, or an average of \$1,065 each. Mr. R. Gibson has refused \$4,000 for the "22nd Duke of Airdrie."

Another New Potato.

We now call your attention to Brownell's Beauty, a potato introduced by B. K. Bliss & Son, who give the following description of it:

This new potato was raised by Mr. E. S. Brownell, an enthusiastic farmer in Northern Vermont, and named by him "Brownell's Beauty." This variety was obtained in 1870, after a long series of experiments, by fertilizing the blossom of the Early Rose with the pollen of the White Peach Blow, and possesses, in addition to the excellent qualities of these two popular and well-known varieties, that of being, without exception, the handsomest potato in cultivation, and a most excellent keeper, which will make it particularly valuable for shipping purposes. Potatoes kept in an ordinary cellar from October to the following August, were tested by some of the best judges in the country, and pronounced to be superior to any of the new varieties then in the market. Samples for trial have been placed in the hands of competent judges the past season with the most satisfactory results. Samples were also sent to the gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society of London, where they received a first-class certificate, and have also received many premiums at various Agricultural Fairs in this country. At the State Fair in Albany they attracted much attention, and sold readily at \$1.00 each. Size, medium to large, growing very fair and smooth. Eyes few and small, nearly even with the surface; shape oval, somewhat flattened; skin reddish, or a deep flesh color; flesh white, fine grained and very delicate;

For the table they cook either by baking or boiling, equal to the very best, and with ordinary boiling they cook to the centre evenly, dry and mealy, and are never hard, watery hollow, or discolored at the centre; flavor unexceptionable. Its vine is of medium growth; foliage deep green, and very healthy in all respects. The tubers grow compactly in the hill, and are easily dug, ripening in about three months from time of planting though suitable for cooking in a week later than the Early Rose, with the same culture. They are very productive, with but few small tubers.

The first year, from seed, 21 tubers were produced, some of which were of fair table size; in 1872, an average of three bushels from every pound of seed; in 1873, one pound of seed, cut to single eyes, produced eight bushels. Its beautiful appearance, fine quality, extraordinary productiveness and remarkable keeping qualities will render it a most valuable variety for the market.

[We try to give our readers information respecting the new seeds and plants that are introduced, and also an opportunity of procuring them early without cost. We cannot be sure of the superiority of all new varieties until they have been tried by several parties. B. K. Bliss & Sons have an established reputation, and it would not do for them to run their name on an inferior article. We will send four ounces of this new potato to any person sending us one new subscriber to the ADVOCATE.]



POULTRY YARD

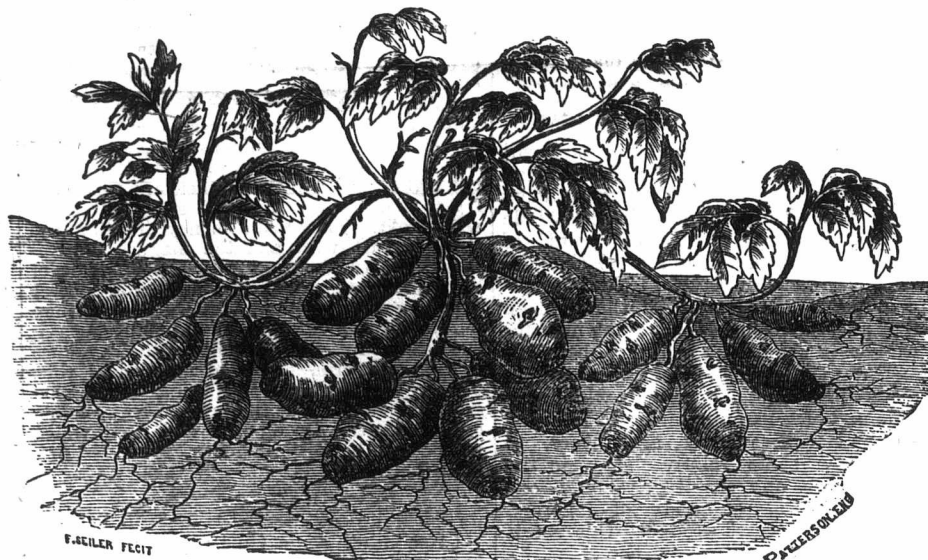
Houdan Fowls.

Houdans are large, heavy, short-legged, five-toed fowls with small light bone, a remarkable absence of offal and with irregular speckled or mottled plumage, excellent layers of good-size eggs, remarkable for being almost invariably fertile. As a table fowl, their merits are of the highest excellence. No pure bred chickens mature with greater capacity; are extremely hardy, feather early, and are consequently easily reared.

PROPORTIONS AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.—Body slightly rounded, of ordinary pro-

small and hidden by the whiskers, half crest, inclined backward and to the sides. Beard begins between the wattles under the beak, and should be larger at the bottom than at the top. Physiognomy of the head differing from that of other breeds in many remarkable particulars. The head forms with the neck a very close angle, so that the beak takes the appearance of a nose. The square and flattened comb looks like a fleshy forehead, the cheeks are surrounded with curling feathers that look like whiskers, the drooping corners of the beak like a mouth, the feathering cravat joined to the gills simulates a beard, the top-knot looks like a luxuriant head of hair and the whole face immediately gives the idea of that of a man. In the adult the legs should be of a leaden grey, in the chickens bluish grey and white, with rose-colored spots.

The plumage of both sexes should be entirely composed of black, white and straw color; those that show any red should be piteously got rid of. The plumage of the Houdan should

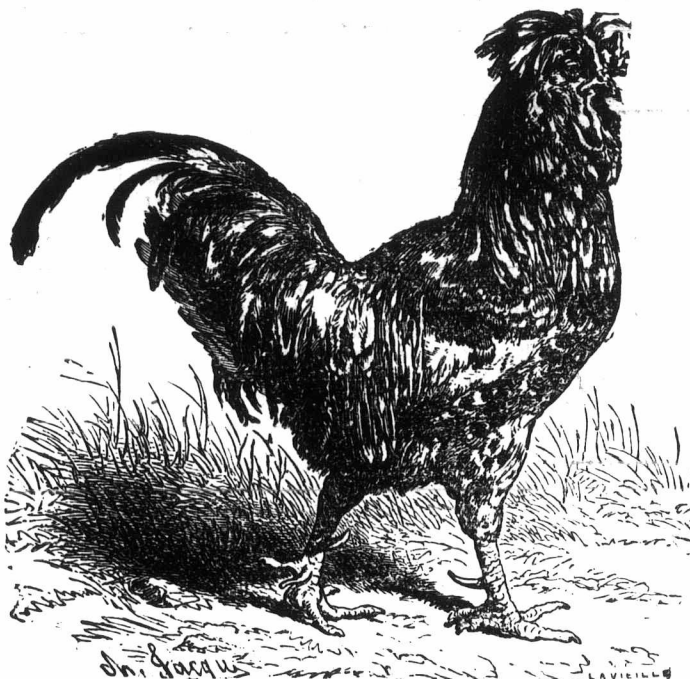


COMPTON'S SURPRISE.

Read description on page 53, April number. 4 oz. of this potato given as a prize for one new subscriber.



LAVERGNE



LAVERGNE

THE HOUDAN FOWLS.

portions, tolerably near the ground, standing firmly on large feet. Breast high, legs and wings well developed, large head, half top-not; whiskers and beard, triple transversal comb, five toes on each foot. Plumage splashed or spotted white, black or straw color; in chickens black and white only.

An adult cock should weigh from 6 to 7 lbs., made up principally of flesh, the bone weighing only an eighth. He should be put up to fatten at sixteen, and be killed at eighteen weeks old.

His comb should be triple and transversal to the direction of the beak, composed of two lengthened rectangular and flattened spirals, opening from the right to the left like the leaves of a book. They should be thick and fleshy, and notched or uneven at the sides. The third spiral should grow from the middle of the other two, be about the size of a lengthened nut, and shaped like an irregular strawberry. A fourth, independent of these, and about the size of a tare, grows above the beak and between the nostrils. Deaf Ears,

be either spotted or splashed, irregularly made up of alternate black and white feathers, sometimes of black tipped with white, sometimes of white tipped with black. The adult hen should weigh from 5 to 6 lbs. Both sexes must have five toes on each foot. The hen is an abundant and early layer of large eggs.

SHALL WE BEGIN WITH EGGS OR FOWLS.

The question is often asked by those who are about to commence breeding the better sorts of poultry. The most desirable fowls are always high priced; and to give from \$20 to \$50 for a single pair of birds seems a pretty large investment of capital. The eggs are cheaper though still dear in comparison with market eggs. The question is a fair one and worth looking at. In starting a flock of pure bred turkeys, if we commence with eggs they will cost \$12 a dozen, at least, if you can find a breeder who is willing to sell them. They have to go through the

hands of the express man, and it is currently reported that eggs are sometimes broken or damaged on the passage. But if they arrive safely and are put immediately under a setting hen, you may get a half-dozen chicks, and with fair attendance, raise them. At the end of the season you have only half turkeys enough to start a flock with, if you have a good range. Twelve dollars will buy a good pair of pure-bred turkeys, if ordered early in the season. The hen will lay for the first setting about fifteen eggs. If these eggs are taken from her and put under hens, she will very soon lay a dozen or more for a second setting. If the eggs are properly cared for, and turned daily while they are in the house, they are quite sure to hatch. It is safe to calculate upon thirty eggs from a good bird, and a flock of a dozen or more the first season. The balance is altogether in favor of buying the fowls. There is little chance of being cheated, for if the birds do not suit you, you have your remedy at once. But you do not know what is in your eggs until the end of the season. The best safety package for the transportation of eggs yet invented, is the ovary of the mother. It is quite rare for fowls, properly boxed, to be injured in transit. They can be sent across the continent with about the same safety as across a country. It costs but a little more to buy good fowls, and you generally gain one season. — W. Cleft, in Poultry World.

HOW TO COMMENCE WITH POULTRY.

As we are fairly launched in the poultry business, our experience may be of some use to others just commencing. The first step with us was to buy three large hens, expecting them to suit in due time. They did not. The next step was, therefore, to buy five more, setting when bought. Of course they kept on, and eggs were then bought of a fancy dealer here and in other places within a range of six miles, therefore running no risk of breakage or exchange. Seventy eggs were put under five hens. At the end of twenty-one days they commenced to hatch. Thirty-five chickens was the result. They were three days coming out. Those remain-

ing in the shell overtweenty-one days were weakly, and needed much care, but we lost only one. Commenced feeding them with cakes baked of Indian meal, pounded, with the yoke of a hard boiled egg added. Fed that with wheat screenings, 2 weeks. Then gave them cracked corn and oatmeal, or fine feed scalded together with a teaspoonful of lard to a pint of corn. — Give the pudding twice a day, and the wheat screenings twice. They had the free run of a large grass-plot and plenty of good water, and good light dirt to roll and dust themselves in, which they enjoy highly.

Our success with the first settings encouraged us to try again. We put all the chickens under 2 hens and let the 3

sit again, together with one of the first lot we bought. Put sixty eggs under them. Thirty-five chickens came out. The hen killed four, and one died, leaving just one-half. One hen got tired of setting and left her eggs when her second twenty-one days were out. We put the eggs under another hen, but only got three chickens from fifteen eggs; but our average was the same as before. Some of them were very weak and we did them up in cotton and fed them with milk and bread crumbs until they could stand their own ground. Can any breeder explain why some chickens come out bright and smart in twenty-one days, while others remain from twenty-four to forty-eight hours longer in the shell? It is a new idea to us. We have now sixty-four chicks. They grow finely and seem perfectly healthy. They require a good deal of care, but we hope another winter to be repaid four-fold *lowo Homestead.*

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Mr. Thos. reports the f use of bone farms within eight acres o he sold as it He put on manure.