

and identification will be required as in the next preceding case.

R. S. M. BOUCHETTE,

Commissioner of Customs.

In order to comply with the foregoing regulations, it will be seen that two certificates must be furnished to the Collector of Customs at the port at which the fowls may be entered: one of purity of blood, to be given by the breeder, the other of identification, to be signed and sworn to by the importer. We would therefore remind our poultry friends who purpose importing stock in the spring to keep this in view, and to avoid delay in passing their fowls through the Customs after their arrival, to have the breeder's certificate ready to present to the Custom House officer. This may readily be done if the importer, when ordering his fowls from the breeder, furnish him with a form of certificate ready for his signature, to be returned by him, signed, with his letter of advice of the shipment of the birds. No definite form having been given in the regulations, some latitude is therefore allowed the respective Collectors, compliance with the spirit of the regulations being the chief requisite. We give below a form of breeder's certificate, which, we think, will meet the Customs' requirements, and suggest its adoption by such of our poultry importers as order fowls for the improvement of the breed. The other form is one which may be drawn up by the importer himself when entering his fowls at the Custom House, and under the supervision of the Collector or his officer, and therefore needs no general form from us.

BREEDER'S CERTIFICATE.

I, (A. B.), of ———, do hereby certify that I have sold Mr. (C.D.) of ———, Canada, and shipped per steamship ———, on the ——— day of ———, 187—, — pens of poultry, which were pure

birds of their breed, and were imported by the said (C. D.) for improving the breed of fowls in Canada.

Dated this ——— day of ———, 187—.

Signed,

(A. B.) Breeder.

Correspondence.

IMPROVEMENT OF BREEDS.

SIR:—Any race of domestic animals may be improved by giving heed for a series of years to two distinct points, both essential. One is the selection and mating of breeding stock, and the other is the feeding and management of the progeny from their earliest growth till maturity.

A few individuals only, eminent in the qualities desired, must be culled from all that are raised, to use as breeders. Animals lacking in the particular respect sought, must be decisively set aside, however fine they may be in other matters. And it must be kept in mind that a slight relative merit in regard to the coveted quality, is not to be despised. Improvement is to be effected ordinarily, not by leaps, but by the accumulation during successive generations of slight differences. Also, other things being equal, the keeper who rears the largest numbers of any breed to cull from, will be able to seize more favorable cases of variation. Having then a few individuals better in the desired particulars than any the owner has previously raised, the next thing is the pairing. Here the mooted question of close breeding or the reverse, presents itself. There is no doubt that size, strength, and fertility, are gained by breeding from individuals not akin. All testimony concurs in this. But breeding irrespective of relationship, with specimens possessing in the greatest degree the particular habit, form, or color desired, will give the most rapid gain in these points.