

# THE CANADIAN POULTRY REVIEW

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## NOTES AND COMMENTS

### SURPLUS MATTER.

**W**E have been overwhelmed with matter for REVIEW the past two months, and while the shows are on find it impossible to get all in. This will explain the reason several correspondents do not see their communications in print. We hope soon to catch up all arrears, and in the meantime beg our friends' indulgence.

MR. JARVIS

writes us that he in error referred to the first prize barred Rock cockerel at the Ontario as being weak in tail. He intended the remark to apply to the second bird in the same class.

### SUDDEN DEATH OF JOHN D. ROBERTSON.

We regret to learn of the sudden death of Mr. J. D. Robertson, Guelph, the well known breeder of Javas. The following notes have been kindly sent us by a correspondent: "About a quarter past five o'clock last evening, seeming in his usual good health and spirits, he left the house to attend to his poultry for the night. His brother, Adam, had left a short time before to feed the horses, then going on to the foundry to light a fire under the boiler, owing to the extreme cold. On coming back he looked into the stable, and also into the poultry house where he thought John would be, with the intention of giving him assistance in fixing up matters for the night. Not finding him there he went into the woodshed where the feed was kept for the poultry, and was horrified to find John lying dead on his back with outstretched arms. It is thought that when in the act of filling the dish he was suddenly taken with rheumatism at the heart and died almost instantly, as he was only a few

minutes out of the house before he was discovered. In his fall he had tried to hold to the barrel and upset it. As may be imagined, the shock was a most severe one to the mother and sister, and, indeed, to the whole family. It is their second sad experience of this kind, another son, Robert, having been killed, along with Newton Cossit, on their way to the Centennial in 1876. They were standing on the rear platform of a fast train, and were instantly killed by being thrown from the train on to the rocks by a sudden jolt rounding a sharp curve. . . Deceased was the fourth son of the late Adam Robertson, and was 48 years of age. He has been well known in the city since he was a lad, and was highly esteemed for his unassuming and kindly ways. He learned the dry goods business with the late John Hogg, and afterwards worked for Mr. G. B. Fraser, now of Toronto. Over twenty years ago he had a severe attack of rheumatism, which partially crippled him and prevented him following up his occupation. However, being a great fancier of fowl, he started breeding them, and had the honor of bringing the white and black Javas in this country to the prominence they occupy among the poultry at the present time. Until Mr. Robertson took hold of this class of birds, they were never brought up to the required weight. But he had them over weight and some thirty of the best birds in America. The poultry men everywhere will deeply regret his sudden and unlooked for death. Mr. Robertson was unmarried. He leaves an aged mother, four brothers and one sister to mourn his loss. The family have the sincere sympathy of the community in this second sudden and sore bereavement. A peculiar coincidence is that both Robert and John, as well as their father, died on a Sunday." We understand the breeding of Javas will be continued by Mr. F. R. Webber, who was the late gentleman's partner in the fancy.

MR. L. G. PEQUEGNAT

has had the misfortune to have his new and extensive poultry house entirely consumed by fire, resulting in a large loss