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### "The Fun of the Fair"

What would Christmas be without them? As they Crack and Snap—as queer Hats, Caps, Toys, Jewels and other surprises tumble out—the Children are delighted, and Grown-up's become Children again.

Ellis' Merry Crackers will enliven your Christmas Festivities. The Designs, Colors and Varieties this Season surpass all previous Christmas's. Come! and See!

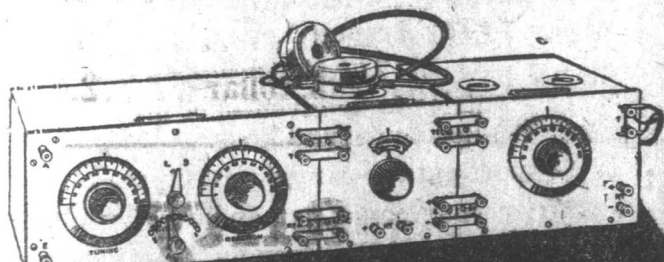
**ELLIS & CO., LIMITED**  
203 Water Street

## Glassware!

Butter Dishes (Covered) ..... 23c.  
Berry Bowls ..... 30c.—35c.  
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Berry Sets (7 Pieces) ..... 80c.  
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Sugars, Creams, Jugs, Tumblers, Wine and Water Sets, Vases, etc., etc.  
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Both the above receivers picked up in St. John's the broadcasting stations at LONDON, BOURNEMOUTH, CARDIFF and GLASGOW, during the trans-atlantic tests now being made between the British Isles and America.

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## English Household COAL

NOW LANDING: Ex. S.S. "Otta"  
1000 Tons BEST WALLSEND COAL  
**HENRY J. STABB & CO.**

## "All-Fuss and Feathers"

(By W. K. CHANCEY of Grand Falls.)  
Yes, we're no "Yokohamas", we have no "Yokohamas" to-day. We have Leghorns, Anconas, and maybe "Lanomas". And all kinds of hens that pay. We've some good Barred Rock chickens, that lay like the dickens. But yes, we're no "Yokohamas", we have no "Yokohamas" to-day.

During the week of the Annual Poultry Exhibition put on by the Newfoundland Poultry Association, a few words relative to the heading of this article may be in order. The term has been applied in the past by critics not over kind in their criticism of Poultry Shows in general.

If a considerable amount of work for the greater part of the year on the part of both exhibitors and officials to further a worthy industry in Poultry, it seems that friend and foe alike get fair treatment and the worth of the admission fee is Fuss, let us admit the word Fuss justifiable.

And "Feathers." Very natural for birds to be feathered at a Show of Live Stuff, is it not? Excepting of course where a section for Market Poultry is instituted. Tell a feather critic that he may have any bird he cares to pick from your flock for his own, and you can give odds that he will pick a good looking every time. But the word that sticks in the mind of the critic is "Fuss". Is the word "All-Fuss" justified that word "All-Fuss" brands his statement "All-Fuss and Feathers" as an untruth.

The exhibits are judged in accordance with the rules laid down in The Standard of Perfection, and granted the Judge knows his business the carcass under the feathers must measure close up to what is laid down for the breed the particular exhibit he handles is supposed to represent. Top line and under line, and typical shape may be apparent from the side, skillful conditions can do many things with "feathers," but the 1923 Standard makes it more emphatic than ever that the Judge must handle specimens and get the knowledge of the body shape that is under the feathers.

Let us consider a few things from the Scale of Points laid down by the Standard for the practical breeds from a useful point of view apart from the fancy feather question, viz: shape, weight or size, condition, color. Shape making the breed, color or in some cases type of comb the variety. No doubt the Standard makers had in mind a niche that could be filled advantageously by the different breeds and varieties admitted. No one breed or variety possesses all the requirements for every purpose. Each has some advantages and disadvantages. Each has commendable points for certain special purposes too lengthy to take up here. Shape, as laid down by the Standard Revision Committee, and Weight, is doubtless that which experience has taught them to be the most useful for the purpose in mind for the breed under consideration, as well as giving it as good an appearance as possible. It is difficult to illustrate briefly and concisely, but the following may convey a faint idea that Shape and Weight laid down by the Standard are useful qualities as well as tending towards the symmetrical.

Shape. Yes, a nice plump, well meaty broiler you put below deck to-day, or maybe it was the heavily meaty thighs of a Cornish Indian Game. A student of the Standard breed who just where it ought to be for the purpose you used it. Fine grained with little connective-tissue kill a scrub and compare with the Standard product and you will then appreciate he gave you more feathers. Some of the Standard terms such as "Rather long broad back," "Rather deep and full breast," "Long keel bone and large thighs," etc., define sufficiently the utility quality of Standard bred poultry from the meat point of view. Meat is bred on and is not a question altogether of feed alone. Then again the Standard shaped body in the so-called egg laying breeds and general purposes breeds permits of plenty of room for the egg machinery, and capacity to assimilate food and stand up under the strain of production. No tight through the saddle and crow headed weaklings, and extraordinary low producers, if the flock is culled closed to Standard shape for the breed.

Weight. Let a so-called egg breed and a general purpose breed serve to illustrate as briefly as may be possible, using Leghorns and Plymouth Rock Standard weights. For all varieties of the Leghorn Breed the Standard weight runs 5 1/2, 4 1/2, 4, 3 1/2, for Cock, Cockerel, Hen and Pullet respectively. Here is a breed whose size will permit you to store roughly one hundred in the same size house that you would only be safe in putting seventy-five perhaps of the general purpose breeds such as Plymouth Rocks in, and giving the birds equal room and comfort as to floor space, etc.—the smaller bird not requiring quite as much of either roosting or square feet of floor space per bird in laying flocks. They will consume approximately about six lbs. of feed less per bird for a year than the larger breeds, and while perhaps not laying more eggs than equally well bred strains of Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, or Wyandottes, they produce them more economically or in other words at less cost per dozen.

They fill the niche for the Commercial Egg Farmer, who has little or no requirement for any poultry product beyond eggs. Breeding the layers much above Standard weight is in practicality all cases followed by lowered egg production. Some claim that birds slightly under Standard, prove the best layers, but there is danger of stock running out in time and eggs becoming smaller in size if birds much under weight are bred from as a general rule. Here is a specific breed for a specific purpose that according to all unbiased opinion does best and pays best at Standard weight. I leave to any one to judge if Standard weight appears to be purposeful and useful in this case.

Plymouth Rock Standard weight for all the different varieties be they Barred, Silver Pencilled, White, Buff, or Partridge, or Columbian run as follows: For Cock, Cockerel, Hen, and Pullet, 9 1/2 lbs., 8 lbs., 7 1/2 lbs., 6 lbs. Here you have a general purpose breed that fills a niche for the farmer who likes some meat as well as eggs, he has hatches that may give him as high as 80 per cent. Cockerels. What he does not need for his table he can fatten and make a profit on, while the Leghorn man is lucky to get rid of his as squab broilers and break even. The breed also is adapted in a commercial way to the man who wishes to cater to both Market Poultry and Market Egg trade. His eggs may cost him more per dozen, to produce than the Leghorn man's cost him, but he has two outlets, and he not only has a larger carcass to market but the meat being of much higher quality than Leghorn flesh, he gets a much higher price per lb. than is obtainable for the latter in good markets. Breeding Plymouth Rocks much above Standard weight will tend to Leghornize them. Egg production may be satisfactory to some degree, but the quality and quantity of carcasses will not be there for the market end of it. You will be giving a dual purpose fowl a single objective. If there is a penalty in this case for wandering far in either direction from Standard weight, and it means dollars and cents, again I leave it to some one to decide if Standard weight is useful.

Condition. As referred to in the Standard and given due valuation in the Scale of Points practically means the state of the fowl exhibited as to its general health, vigor, cleanliness throughout or vice versa. Birds in good condition have the best chance of winning, other points being fairly equal. Vermine infested birds or those with scaly legs, apparently diseased birds or those with soiled and bedraggled plumage and unclean generally are either disqualified, perhaps ordered from the Show Room altogether, or at best heavily handicapped with a big cut for condition being very bad. Do you want eggs or meat from the clean, healthy bird for use on the table? The Standard compels the Judge to reward the bird with points for good condition, to penalise severely for lack of it. So again in the Show Room stress is laid on something useful if cleanliness is of any value or desirable in food products.

Color. The Standard rules that good color must be rewarded in the Show Room according to the requirements laid down for each variety. Apart from being a distinguishing mark of a variety, and its near perfection in a specimen a sort of good finishing touch, (and a football for critics in general) who knows the Standard makers did not have something useful in view at the same time, with a purpose in mind as well as for shape, weight or size, and condition previously reviewed? If things were all of the same color what a monotonous planet we would be living on. Folk indulge their fancy in color of clothes and other commodities essential to life on this mundane sphere so why not indulge in it as regards birds or animals one sees its possibilities? Looks like getting back to "Feathers" now, eh? No! The broad gauge useful track still looms in sight and I will try to shunt a few ideas as to color along it.

(1) An old colored man once told a Judge before whom he was brought for chicken stealing, and who asked him the kind of chicken he preferred, that "The white ones am de easiest to find Judge, but the black ones am de easiest to hide aftah yo catches them."

(2) A white variety dresses well for market purposes with no dark objectionable plumage. White feathers bring about forty cents per lb. in some markets against thirteen cents for colored.

(3) Dark varieties are more suitable for backyard flocks as they do not show soiling so easily. Where hawks abound a farmer is less likely to lose so large a percentage of his flock as if they were of a white variety. The lazy man does not have to tub them as he would a white bird before exhibiting it.

(4) In some part colored varieties the males may be told almost as soon as hatched. That is why Barred Rock fowls apart from the excellent qualities of their flesh, are favored by those catering to the Capon Markets. The males can be detected early, and Caponized before too far advanced for best results.

Color has too many uses to dwell on here, and if foreign color should be allowed to pass unchallenged altogether, not only would breed characteristics be lost, but a great many



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Great  
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of  
**TOYS  
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**Ayre & Sons**  
LIMITED

Our special effort this season to obtain original novelties and new features has proved most successful. We invite your attention to the latest and the best. Our two stores abound in choice and desirable gifts from the finest to the most inexpensive.

## George Says:

MANY MOTHERS ARE WORRIED TO-DAY because their sons are wearing B. V. D.'s, and they've got a good reason to worry, because once we meet the Fall and Winter weather in Newfoundland, we require to wear a garment with at least some Wool in it, in order to offset RHEUMATISM.

### NOW MOTHERS, I'M TALKING TO YOU!

Perhaps the reason your son is not changing to Wool is because he doesn't want to spend THE MONEY HE HAD LAID BY FOR XMAS.

### WHY NOT GET HIM A SUIT OF UNDERWEAR FOR XMAS?

Don't you think it a very SENSIBLE GIFT Suggestion? I am showing in my Eastern Window to-day the finest line of **ENGLISH ALL-WOOL CASHMERE UNSHRINKABLE UNDERWEAR**

at \$3.00 the Garment  
And a line of SILK and WOOL COMBINATIONS  
at \$6.00 the Suit—SEE IT AND BUY  
Yours for quality and service,

**Kearney's**

means All of the latter two. With the right kind of breeders it means a combination of beauty with utility qualities, without swinging the pendulum too far either way to the detriment of either quality.  
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Stafford's Ginger Wine for sale everywhere. 15c. per bottle.  
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