

Our rotund and smiling friend, Mr. Sharp Butterfield, the well known judge, kindly supplies us with the following notes:—

The 20th Ontario show has passed and gone, and it was considered by far the best collection of birds ever brought together in Canada. And from my own memory, for I have judged at the Ontario show since its inception, I must say I have noticed the classes of birds, and the improvement is so marked that one would almost think he was at Crystal Palace or Birmingham show, and in nearly every class there were birds which would not pass unnoticed even at those two leading shows of England. Of course, the American light Brahma and the English light Brahma, according to American and English fanciers, are much at variance. While we don't require the heavy leg and toe feathering our cousins do, nor yet the length and fluffiness of feather and short backs; still, my eyes have become so educated that I think I see more beauty in a first-class American light Brahma than I do in our cousins' type. The American light Brahma has filled the bill for a long time as the best general purpose fowl in this country, and at present may not be in the lead, but still it maintains its popularity amongst fanciers, that its beauty is worth quite a consideration, while the English Brahma would require considerable more care to keep the feet and leg feathering in show shape, and probably would not be so good for practical purposes. And still to be an A No. 1 light Brahma the feet require graceful middle toe feathering, which hides the toe, and which adds finish to our artistic Brahma. All the winning light Brahmas were really grand specimens, especially the first prize cock and hen. The cock lacked foot feathering and would have been better if the striping in neck ran higher up towards the head, and a little heavier striping would make him rank pretty high. The first hen was a model light Brahma, with no Cochin cushion or fluff. Her plumage was grand, the white as white as snow, no creamy tinge, though she has not standard requirements for flights, but has got a really good wing, so good that several judges have scored her one for wing; tail just about perfect in color, with beautiful black tail coverts and finely banded; her hackle very glossy and well defined, but feathers hardly pointed enough or would call it a perfect neck. What a lovely low comb, with distinct serrations; had to cut one because was not standard size. But, oh! her feet; of course it would take a lady's foot to be more perfect. Second was a good hen, but more after the English type, too loose in feather. Third a grand hen, but a little lighter in tail and not so good in neck; still they looked like three sisters, for they were all full in breast and body and beautiful concave

sweep from shoulders to tail. Oh! if George Purdue had been there, he would have talked of entering an action for infringement of tail and tail coverts. The first cockerel was a very large young bird and so much resembled first prize hen that one would feel sure it was his dam. The second prize cockerel the most perfect model I ever passed upon. Had his neck been a little heavier in the black striping I could have pronounced it perfect; tail was an ideal both in color and shape, and probably as perfect coverts as we shall ever see. Third prize cockerel grand in surface color, but not so good in shape of body and breast, nor yet so good in hackle and tail, and lacked finish in foot feathering, still a good bird. Several fairly good birds had to be left out of the prizes.

Dark Brahmas—First prize cock a beautiful bird both in shape and color, and he lacked for want of more dense striping in hackle and saddle, but the whiteness of his plumage was very fine. Same fault with the second and third prize birds. I only noticed one bird with any red in wing, and that one was very slight. The hens, especially first prize hen, were grandly pencilled all over, and the pencilling ran well up in throat. Second prize hen good, but much smaller in appearance. Third prize hen a good hen, but lacking in size. I noticed one cockerel with a crooked hack, so had to disqualify him. One of the standers by said that was first prize cockerel at the World's Fair. I said it might not have been so prominent then as now, and the cockerel got the benefit of the doubt. First, second, and third looked much alike in color, but the best developed birds got the premiums. First pullet was grand surface color, lacked evenness of pencilling on back, but she was good Brahma shape and nicely furnished feet. Second prize pullet a grand young bird, but the pencilling on breast was cloudy and near the throat looked like small spangles. Third prize pullet was grandly pencilled, but lacked ground color. I am sure the dark Brahma class, as a whole, was the best I ever judged at the Ontario show, and about the most of that variety.

Buff Cochins—First and second cocks in great shape; both looked as if they had come from some first class milliner, for the length of tail coverts was so immense that one would think they had cut off a few feet of ribbon too much and they were bound to use it up, so used it on coverts and sickles, and the color was one better than the standard. It was a rich, clear, deep golden buff, with immense foot and leg feathering. Third prize bird good, but much shorter in feather. The first and second prize hens were immense in size and very sound in color—just about standard color. They were clear buff, with grand Cochin shape. Third