

the dark or gipsy faces predominated we have lost the beautiful bright colors in Brown-reds we used to have.

"The color of hen to match the streaky-breasted cock in the Brown-reds is as follows:—Head dusky brown, comb and face bright purple-red or smutty, according to taste, eyes black or dark brown; neck brassy, striped with black, the legs dark or willow; body-feathers dark brown—or even in a dark hen almost black, with brassy hackle, would answer for the show-pen.

"This is the most fashionable color, let us now see what they will breed. Some will come as near like the parents as possible in cockerels, others will come black-breasted, and too dark in hackle; others will be nearly crow-black, with only a dirty dark red on shoulder and back. Some pullets will come a nice color, but some nearly brown; and others nearly black, without the brassy hackle, but only a slight tinge of copper in the hackle. In Brown reds it is very difficult to get over one or two in a brood fit for the show-pen, or even fit to breed from the following season.

"Another very fashionable color in Brown-reds, as frequently shown, and by many thought even more beautiful than the starling-breasted, is as follows:—Head and hackle orange-color throughout, with little or no streak in the feathers; shoulder-coverts a shade lighter crimson than the streaky-breasted birds; saddle to match the hackle, or dark lemon; back a maroon straw; and breast an almost black ground color, but every feather beautifully laced with light bay—a mere slight lacing round the edges, not at all running into the feather. The hens to match these cocks are a brilliant black, with rich golden-striped hackle."

Last winter, at the show of the Poultry Association of Ontario, we had the pleasure of seeing what was considered by nearly all who saw him, to be the finest Brown red cock ever shown in Canada. This was the bird "Hillhurst," owned by W. L. Ball, Esq., of Sherbrooke, P. Q., who imported him from England, with several magnificent hens.

"Hillhurst" and the two hens exhibited with him so successfully at Toronto, Montreal and Sherbrooke, are now the property of Mr. Angus McKeigan, of Strathroy, who is making the breeding of Games a specialty, and is bound to have the best.

As an evidence that the interest in Brown-reds is on the increase we may state that after these birds were sold Mr. Ball had over a dozen applications for them. It is the intention of their present owner to exhibit them at a couple of the principal shows this Fall, if they are in condition. We wish our enterprising young townsman success both in exhibiting and breeding these magnificent birds.

### Utility Fowls Abroad.

When visiting the International Agricultural Show at Hamburg, and the Royal Danish at Aalborg, I was forcibly struck with the difference in the systems of poultry keeping as compared with our own. In England, as most people know, the rage for poultry fancy has so permeated all ranks that, instead of the domestic fowl being cultivated for eggs and meat, it is produced for feather and other fancy qualities, whose duty is mere eye service, for there are thousand who never sell a bird but at a fancy price and for fancy purposes, and who even press every wretched waster into the category of saleable pure breeds. The sole value of cultivating pure races is that they may be of service in crossing upon other or commoner stock, but when pure breeds are so reduced in economical value by persistently breeding for fancy points, and as persistently ignoring the true end of poultry, then it is time to say your purer races are of less value than our mongrels.

In Denmark I found the fancier to combine with his taste for pure bred fowls the habit of breeding for eggs, of seeking large egg production; for the Dane has commenced upon the egg market, and already we receive shiploads of splended egg, well packed, and so fresh that they sell for English new-laid. In the poultry department prizes were given for eggs fresh and preserved, for packages and methods of transport, and for cases of eggs ready packed; and the great prize went to a case in which all the eggs were large and fresh, the packing neat, good, and sweet, and, what is more, the judges were able to speak of it as being an exact sample of the system regularly adopted by the exhibitor. This shows that the Danish fancier has no other end but business, and that his fowls are not the medium of pleasure alone. If more evidence is needed that he is unlike English fanciers, it is found in the fact that he exhibits his birds just as they are—he does not even think of sending them to an exhibition clean—just as they leave their yards, and, as they are judged for useful properties, spotless plumage and clean legs do not signify. It is not meat that is sought for in Denmark, nor feathers, but eggs; for the popular fowls is the Spanish races, which includes the Minorca, the Andalusian, and the Italian fowl, or, as we call it, the Leghorn. The Cochin and Brahma is not a craze; they are considered to have too little quality, too much bone, and uncertain laying powers. French fowls have few admirers, the game fowl is not considered a sufficiently good layer, while a better acquaintance with the Dorking is sought. For years the fancier's papers have teemed with articles and letters on the Leghorn, the Minorca, and kindred, and discussion as to wheth-