

Whatever they are the fact remains that they are a very useful fowl. In size they are equal if not larger than Plymouth Rocks; in color a rich metallic black, comb single, and long flowing tails in the cocks; shanks black in chicks, but turning to willow with advancing age. They mature about as early as Plymouth Rocks, and are as hardy as any of the Asiatics. They are excellent table fowls, as they carry a great deal of breast meat, and are good layers, although I have not found them to equal Light Brahmas in this respect, but I am confident that a few years careful breeding will greatly improve them as egg producers.

Although they have been bred by the Lattin family for a quarter of a century, and by a few other fanciers scattered throughout the United States, yet there has been no standard to breed to until four or five years ago, and for that reason they are practically a new breed, and there is lots of room for the fancier to exercise his skill in perfecting these useful fowls.

They breed as true to feather as any black fowl, but like all others of this color they produce some chicks with red, brassy feathers, and occasionally white feathers. The most objectionable feature of the Black Javas, in my opinion, is that they do not breed true to standard shape. Out of a flock of twenty or thirty chicks it is quite easy to distinguish three or four different types of birds. Of course the difference in shape is not very great, but sufficiently so to be very provoking. This defect can be easily bred out, but of course it will take some years. Notwithstanding this defect I believe there is no other variety that will produce a greater number per cent. of exhibition birds than the Black Javas.

When the chicks hatch out they present a rather motly appearance, their breasts and heads being irregularly marked with yellowish white or canary color, balance of plumage a dingy black. At the first moult they lose all these canary-colored feathers and don their black suit, which should always be brilliant and glossy.

A peculiarity of this breed is that the pullets often have black combs and wattles, but my experience so far has been that they turn red before commencing to lay.

Considerable interest has been taken in Black Javas by our American cousins since their admission to the *Standard*, but in Canada they are almost unknown. They are well worthy the attention of fanciers, and any one giving them a trial cannot fail to be pleased with them.

Yours very truly,

T. A. WILLITS.

Toronto, Nov. 9th, 1884.

White Leghorns as Layers.

Editor Review.

I notice in your October issue that Mr. Willits criticises my letter in the previous number. I still maintain that what has been done in the past can be done again. Given that the premises are warm enough to prevent freezing of combs, and good clean attention, I am sure that early hatched White Leghorn pullets, when not crowded, will keep even with any breed I know. I mentioned Light Brahmas in my previous letter, not for the purpose of slighting that breed but for the purpose of illustrating more fully the facts I referred to. Mr. Willits thinks they could not be good; but I can assure him that they were very choice bred stock—in fact I hardly ever know anything of poor stock, not being interested in such. The Light Brahmas have too many good qualities, and are so fully able to stand on their own merits, that I need not say any more about them.

Now, Mr. Editor, my letter contained facts, and I will be glad if some of your writers would give a few facts or statistics showing what has been done with the breeds they speak of, and give so many generalities that it is very hard for plain folk to understand what they really claim for these breeds. I am sure a few facts would be refreshing to your readers. Don't you think so, friend Fullerton.

Yours sincerely,

W. SANDERSON.

Stratford, Oct. 8th, 1883.

How to Preserve Eggs.

Pour two gallons of boiling water on two quarts of quicklime and half pound of salt; when cold mix into it 1 oz. of cream of tartar and stir well with a stick. The following day you may put the eggs in very carefully, not to crack them. After the lime has been well stirred in the boiling water a large part will sink to the bottom, on which the eggs will rest. The mixture should be made in a wooden or iron vessel, and when cold poured into a well glazed earthen pan with a cover; add water from time to time as it evaporates, and see that the liquor always covers the eggs.

At this season of the year a tonic is generally very beneficial to the fowls. The most simple, inexpensive and best we know of is the "Douglas Mixture," which is made as follows:—Half pound sulphate of iron, one ounce sulphuric acid, and two gallons of water. Dissolve the sulphate of iron in a little warm water. Keep in a jug where it will not freeze in winter. Give about a teaspoonful to each half pint of drinking water two three times a week.