

little difficulty in so stretching them as to award to their own particular favorite breeds of fowls a lion's share of the prizes offered. This fact had become so well known among breeders, that the keenest interest was taken by exhibitors at well established poultry shows in the appointing of judges—and as soon as the names of the judges were announced the awarding of prizes was a foregone conclusion. Many a good pen of fowl entered, were never exhibited, because it was well known one or more of the judges had adverse views respecting that particular breed of fowls.

On the adoption by the Poultry Club of the "Standard of Excellence," this awarding of prizes to favorite breeds of fowls was done away with. By it certain rules for the guidance of judges were made arbitrary—a scale of points of known value was established, by which the excellence of the specimen shown could in the hands of a fancier be easily ascertained; and with the adoption of the "Standard of Excellence" commenced a new era in judging at poultry shows.

We have every reason to believe that the class of fowls which will be shown at our Provincial Exhibition this year will be far superior, both in number and excellence, to those shown at any former one. The increased fancy, the large importation of choice fowls, the general desire recently shown to become possessed of rare breeds—warrant us in drawing this conclusion. We trust therefore that none but persons well educated in poultry matters will be permitted to act as judges—that they will take the "Standard of Excellence" as their guide in awarding prizes—and that all specimens not coming up to the rules there laid down, will be either disqualified or passed by without mention. The time has arrived when poultry at our exhibitions must be judged by the excellence of the specimens shown, and not because

their exhibitor has for years past been known to be possessed of good fowls, and has always been a prize-taker; or that such and such localities were heretofore famous for the excellence of their breeds, consequently an exhibitor from there must be awarded a prize.

A very unfair practice, too, has crept in which we would desire to see done away with, and that is the rule of appointing judges from different localities. The continuance of such a practice justifies the conclusion, that the nominators of judges are of opinion awards of prizes ought to be made to exhibitors, and not to the excellency of the specimens shown. Surely, the best man for judge should be chosen, no matter where his private residence may be. Judges, too, ought to be well acquainted with the rules laid down for their guidance; they should be imprinted on the memory as well as carried in the pocket—but which we are sorry to say is not always the case.

Another and a very disreputable practice obtains among exhibitors at poultry shows, to remedy which stringent rules ought to be adopted; namely, crowding around the judges during the time they are endeavouring to discharge their duties, and not unfrequently making remarks and observations, the object of which is to bias the minds of the judges as much as possible—if indeed such a thing can be done.

There is nothing which tends so much to the improvement of poultry as good wholesome competition, but the exhibitor who uses unfair or unjust means to raise his fowls to a rank which they are not entitled to, to the manifest disadvantage of others, is of all poultry fanciers the meanest and most despicable—his object is self—his end self-glory.

In making these remarks we do not wish to be misunderstood. We make no personal reference to any. At the time we write, we know not who the poultry