

The fancier may ask, "how is this state of things to be bettered?" We answer, by an effort of each fancier in his neighborhood to get the farming community interested in the improved varieties of fowls; to point out to them their superiority over the common breeds, and to convince them by actual proof of what you advance. Show them your accounts of eggs received from the prolific varieties, and get them to test the matter for themselves, even if you have to sell them a few birds at a low figure for that purpose. Show them what can be done with the larger varieties in the way of producing beautiful dressed poultry, that will shame the common kind when exposed together on the market, at a cost for raising little if any exceeding their miserable specimens, which will not when dressed weigh half so much as the improved varieties. Farmers are as keen to adopt an improvement, when they know it to be such, and there is money in it, as any other class, and the advantages in favor of the improved varieties are so evident to the fancier that he should have little difficulty in making the farmer see it also.

It is necessary for the permanent improvement of the trade in improved fowls that the foundation of it rests on the trade in eggs and poultry; and to bring this about, the farmer must become interested, as through his hands the trade must run. When once he adopts a pure variety another customer is made for the fancier, as he must occasionally infuse new blood to keep up the stamina, which he will do ungrudgingly when he finds himself realizing a handsome profit from them; and his success with one variety will be apt to cause him to adopt a second. His neighbor will see his success and follow his example; and in this way in a very short time the trade in eggs and poultry could be doubled, and also the demand for thorough-breeds from the fancier be greatly increased.

Some may say, "by this means we would have a fancier in every farmer." There would be no danger of this, as the farmer has so many other duties to attend to that he would not have the time to study the fine points, and breed for form and feather; but would look almost entirely to the economic qualities of his stock. He would see the uselessness of attempting to compete with the fancier who makes breeding a study and employment for his leisure hours, and from his attendance at shows and careful reading of poultry literature, has advantage over him (the farmer) in this line that he can easily see is useless to attempt to surmount. He will be content with an increased supply of eggs and a better class of dressed poultry, besides the pleasure he will derive from the more beautiful and uniform appearance of his stock.

Another advantage that would be gained, by an increase of the trade in this direction, is, that the

demand for fowls by the farmer would not always be for stock most valued by the fancier. He would look more for size, stamina and good laying qualities, than for fancy points, and it would open a proper market for a large class of stock that is neither fit for the show pen nor for breeding birds fit for exhibition purposes, but have all the qualities necessary to make them valuable to the farmer. This is the most numerous grade of poultry, and the one that gives the most trouble in the fancy.

Let breeders, therefore, instead of passively allowing the fancy to decline, make an effort to get the trade into the channel we have alluded to. If you had an agricultural implement that you knew was superior to any the farmer is now using, would you not urge the sale of it to him, and attempt to show its superiority over that he has? Why not exert the same zeal and energy in the poultry business. Your fowls cost you money, time and study, and you expect cash returns from them. Look away from the fancy for your support; for it must be evident to all that what lives on itself cannot thrive—and that is just about the position the fancy is assuming in Canada. A little effort of each fancier in his own neighborhood would bear good fruit, and it is to his interest, as well as to the interest of all concerned that he make it, and if each can get a few to see the matter as he does, the trade may easily be increased too-fold each year for many years to come, and the coffers of both the fancier and farmer be benefited.

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