

Poultry Department

Edited by

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To whom all communications, items of news, &c., on this subject should be addressed.

Poultry Notes.

Owen Sound, Jan. 14th to 17th, inclusive.

Toronto, Jan. 29, 30, 31, and Feb. 1.

Bowmanville, Feb. 3rd, 4th and 5th. J. V. Bicknell, judge.

Mr. Sanderson, writes us: "Stratford and Seaforth Societies' show immediately following P. A. of O., at Guelph, with American judge and scoring."

We have received the first number of the *Wyandotte Herald*, and can recommend it to all fanciers of the breed.

Mr. Hamill writes us that the partnership of Whiting & Hamill has ceased, and that he will continue to breed the Leghorns.

We would remind our readers that all communications *must* be accompanied by name and address of sender. All anonymous letters go straight into our waste-basket.

F. Wixon, of Ingersoll, has sold his entire stock of Langshans to Mr. W. Sanderson, of Stratford. The sale includes some excellent old birds and a lot of exceedingly fine chicks. They go into good hands.

At a meeting of the Owen Sound Poultry and Pet Stock Association, held October 9th, it was decided to hold the next annual show on the 14th, 15th, 16 and 17 of January, 1886, at the town of Owen Sound.

The combination of small fruit-growing with poultry raising is said to be a most valuable one. Plum trees are especially valuable for planting on chicken runs, and serve the double purpose of giving shade a most profitable crop.

We hear that Mr. W. F. Entwisle, the well-known English fancier, has succeeded in producing a breed of Golden Polish Bantams; several American breeders have W. C. W. Polish Bantams, but these are the first Golden we have heard of.

The Poultry section of the Peninsular Fair was a complete failure, so far as entries are concerned, there being but a few pair shown. This transition from last year's fine display is due to the action of the Directors in doing away with the classes for chicks and reducing the prize money, and also to the buildings in which the fowls are exhibited, which are utterly unfit for the purpose.

Mr. Lewis Thorne, of Los Angeles, California, is going extensively into the raising of fancy poultry, and is procuring a lot of stock from the best trains in Canada. A large consignment started for him on the 12th inst. We wish him success.

Mr. J. B. Lawlor writes us: This summer a Dorking hen of mine laid the largest egg I had ever seen. It weighed $3\frac{3}{4}$ oz., measured 8 in. one way and 6 in. the other. On the 20th September a Brahma, however, beat that, laying an egg weighing $4\frac{1}{2}$ oz., measuring $8\frac{1}{2}$ one way and $7\frac{1}{4}$ the other. This is the largest I have ever seen or heard of.

The Toronto Poultry Association, at a meeting held on the evening of the 8th inst, decided to hold an exhibition on the last three days of January and the 1st of February. Diplomas will be awarded in lieu of prizes. The birds will be scored by an American judge. If the matter is taken heartily in hand, and a good special list provided, a great success can be made of this show. Mr. Doel says, "Toronto can take the lead in anything she chooses." We are satisfied she can in this line, if all work together with a will.

Meat, Eggs and Fancy Points.

One of the remarkable poultry events of 1885 has been a direct attack by Sir Henry Thompson upon the whole system of breeding and exhibiting prize poultry. Such an attack, from a man known all over the world as the premier surgeon of England, naturally aroused some attention; but it was curious to see how generally it was assumed that he must know all about the subject he treated of. If people had only remembered that it was the very same authority who once proposed, with perfect gravity, that the exact efficacy of prayer could be precisely tested by selecting for experiment two wards in a London hospital, they would not have been so sure that a sound judgment really was brought to bear upon the matter, or that an altogether fair representation was given of it. Of course there were many replies from the poultry breeders in the poultry papers; but it does not seem to me that all of them combined have effectually dealt with the matter, and it is of some importance, even yet, to disentangle the true (of which there is a portion) from the false in this tremendous indictment.

For Sir Henry Thompson in no way whatever qualified his heavy accusations. Briefly, he professed to give his reasons for "retiring from the fancy" after being in it three years. He supposed, he said, that the "most perfect birds" were either those best for eating or best for laying. But he found that in England these were not the objects; that "we produce races inferior to those of France," and being unable to supply our wants, have to import from that country. He further stated that the characters desired were as "unnatural" as the foot of a Chinese woman;