

were scarcely twenty persons hereabout who had ever exhibited a thoroughbred fowl, and probably not a hundred people who had ever attended a decently managed poultry show! This might be taken as an evidence that in this neighborhood the interest in fine poultry was very limited. Was it? Or did it simply lack a stimulus to show its true extent and vigor? Judge for yourself. The Nanaimo Society was informally organized in November, held its first show in December and became incorporated in February. Since that time we have learned in the most casual way that importations of fowls, eggs, bone cutters and other poultry specialties have arrived for dozens of ambitious breeders and fanciers. These importations have been of the right sort as the following offhand list of names will amply guarantee:—Philander Williams, William Ellery Bright, Bradley Bros., C. A. Sharp & Co., F. C. Hare, E. H. Donnelly, T. A. Duff & Co., C. J. Daniels, Geo. Lampson, E. R. Spaulding, Theo. Hewes, Jno. D. Mercer, Thos. Rice, Webster & Hannum, F. T. Palmer, E. H. Freeman,—enough for purposes of illustration. These at random, are among those who recognize the fact that an acre of fresh ground has here been opened up. They don't need assurance that it is fertile. They know it. And many of them have already secured space in our advertising columns, as well as others equally reliable whose sales in this province we have not happened to hear of.

To such as have done business in our immediate territory we say, *we can aid them to retain and extend it.* To all other responsible breeders, who aim to establish such a trade, we submit that we can bring them into more practical contact with a *really good class of intelligent buyers* than any other publication extant.

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#### VANCOUVER POULTRY & PET STOCK ASSOCIATION.

The above Society, now well established, has been founded on good practical lines, and will in due course give an account of itself that will be perhaps a genuine and agreeable surprise to its many well wishers, and even to its immediate supporters. Vancouver undoubtedly possesses advantages as a terminal point that render it a peculiarly favorable place for all meetings that involve shipments of valuable stock.

Nothing is more distressing to an exhibitor than the exposure and delay incident to transfers at railway or steamboat junctions. With direct means of transport from every quarter to its very portals, the Vancouver Society's showroom next winter will certainly seem more generally convenient than any other in the province. As to judges it is needless to say that our officers are keenly alive to the importance of retaining in good time the services of eminent and reliable experts to place the awards. Such negotiations however, cannot be unduly forced to a conclusion, and it will suffice for the present to say that the choice of the Association will be made intelligently and as speedily as possible. In the meantime remember that Vancouver will not be behind any of her neighbors in providing substantial inducements to exhibitors of every class local and foreign, and will cordially welcome all of them; even to the amateur that is "only keeping a few hens for laying" but needs a special car to carry away his winnings all the same.

"VANCOUVER."

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#### THE VERDICT.

The Langshan fowl. What are its leading qualities, and why is it the most popular fowl of the day?

Anyone who has ever bred the Langshan proclaims it the best all round fowl that has ever been brought to the notice of the fancier and breeder.

The oft repeated assertion, that they are the greatest winter layer, is demonstrated every year in the hands of those who breed and raise them. Put them against Leghorns or Minorcas (the greatest of all layers the year round) an equal number of each in a pen, and feed as the two breeds should be fed, and the verdict for the months from October to March will surely be in favor of the Langshan. The fact has been proved often, and a trial alone will convince the experimenter. At a time when eggs are most in demand for both table use and hatching, this becomes a most important fact.

Take again the table qualities of this breed. Who of us that have ever partaken of a broiled Langshan chicken at 3 and 4 months of age, would not award the palm to this breed, even against the luscious Plymouth Rock, and the solid-breasted Indian Game? These are facts not fancies. Some will tell you that the Langshan does not make a good mother, and will not brood

her chicks properly, that they are too heavy and smash the young ones in the nest, and just at the time you need her motherly care and cluck she leaves the brood and goes back to laying. Let me say right here, that for years I have been breeding this fowl exclusively, and every chicken I have ever raised was hatched out and properly raised by these "clumsy and heavy good-for-nothing mothers," losing only the proportion of chicks which are always lost in any brood by being mashed and from other causes which they are heir to.

This point I am sure will be substantiated by any one who handles the breed. Now that we have these three most important points settled, eggs, broiler and brooder, let us take up the chick from the shell to maturity.

Look at the little downy beauties as you take them from under the setting hen or watch them with interest through the incubator glass as they hatch out, and let me know where there is a prettier sight for the eye, to anyone who loves the rearing of the chick.

With proper care of food and housing we see them grow into maturity, first with their pin feathers at three or four weeks, then with their black feathers, invariably tipped with white, (for which the breeder gets many a "cuss" word, until the novice sees the white disappear on the next moult) and now at 6 or 7 months, watch the feathers as they break forth in all their beauty,—that rich metallic green—until their whole breast and body looms up with that rich coloring which cannot be surpassed by any fowl, except it be the fighting Game. At this point we look anxiously among our flock for the show birds, those that we can take up and bestow extra care upon, to enable us to go to the next Philadelphia or N. Y. show and down our brother breeders with. At the shows held all over this great country of ours, North, South, East, and West, you see the crowd always around the pen of the Langshan, praising their good qualities, their beauty of plumage and symmetry; and in the majority of cases you hear the verdict—"The Langshans are the best all round fowl we have."—J. ALWYN BALL, *American Langshan Club Catalogue.*

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.....If eggs are not intended for hatching the male bird should not be allowed to run with the hens. More eggs will be got and they will keep longer than eggs from runs with male birds.