

competitors taking their choice, the essays to contain, say 1000 words, or more, quality not quantity to govern.

All essays to be the property of the Association, and to be submitted to the Department for publication in our report, or not, at their discretion. The judges to be the Minister of Agriculture, or his Deputy, one of our judges, and the President of the Association. (Named herein merely for consideration.)

Third—I do not think we devote sufficient time during exhibition week to our meetings, but incline rather much to the social evening elsewhere. While I cannot but acknowledge with heartfelt thanks the oft repeated kindnesses of the local Associations, where we have been, in providing entertainments for us and our friends, and at which I most thoroughly enjoyed myself, still I think we should have another afternoon and evening, if necessary, or the morning of Thursday, if you think best to make one day of it, for the essays and their discussion, apart from the regular business, either those read at the present or the past meetings, and also invite questions to be answered thereat. I am satisfied that in expressing your views you would certainly assist your fellow fanciers.

Fourth—and last—this I know must be handled very carefully—The judging of our shows. While I have nothing to say against the ability, or the impartial judgements rendered by those gentlemen who serve us faithfully and well year after year, nor have I any intention to cast any reflection whatever on those gentlemen or their work, I cannot help thinking that an improvement would be made by either having additional judges, or having the work done by comparison, and at the same time provision should be made to prevent exhibitors, or any other persons, from standing around the judges while in the discharge of their duties. You are well aware that the "Secretary" hears more complaints than any other half dozen persons connected with these shows, all complaints come to him, his opinion is asked and his help solicited. For such reasons as these already mentioned and others of personal observation, I have concluded that it would be in the interests of everyone concerned if this matter were carefully considered by your new directors, with the object of improvement. In the first place it would expedite matters. Exhibitors would get the

benefits accruing from their honors earlier, making some sales which they now lose under present arrangements. As it is now it is Friday, the last day of the show, before many are judged, and then necessarily in a very hurried manner. This, as you are all aware is a fact, because at each annual directors' meeting there is a resolution passed that the judges commence on such and such varieties, and not leave them until the last day, as was the case last year. And what will it be if the show keeps on the increase, as it has for the last few years, some change must be effected. Now I will give a short comparative statement and close.

Those of you who attended the show of 1896 in Port Hope City Hall, will remember that the opinion expressed by all was "that never had a finer poultry show been held under our auspices." With the new coops, the spacious hall, good light day and night, the ever obliging Superintendent, and the courteous President, and local members, it had never been better, and doubtful if it ever would be surpassed.

Well here we are to-day—another year has passed away—only one. The same coops and more, besides a good hall well lighted, a Superintendent just as good (but no better) a President and local members all that could be desired, the same judges with a larger entry in most of the varieties, particularly the heavy fowls, making the total the largest in the history of the "Ontario," as far as known to me. I miss from amongst us some of the old standards, C. J. Daniels, W. R. Knight, T. A. Duff, and others, but on the other hand we have a much larger increase of new blood, see that we use them right.

In 1896 we had fowls 1,035, turkeys 12, geese 14, ducks 33, pheasants, pigeons and pets 180, total 1,274; membership 102. At the present show we have fowls 1218, turkeys 36, geese 48, ducks 68, pheasants, pigeons, and pets 260, total 1,622, increase over last year 346; membership 139, increase over last year 37.

I wish also to compliment the local Association in their arrangement of the special prizes, which have been placed, to my mind, in the proper way to bring out competition (the increase in the entry this year is largely due to their foresight). And it also gives a large number of exhibitors an opportunity to compete and those who do so by merit, and not as too often is the case, they are given to some special variety and