

of the Indian Game Club, having previously imported two settings of eggs which failed to hatch. The birds were 22 days on their journey, but arrived in perfect condition, apparently none the worse for an ocean voyage. From this trio I have raised this season six cockerels and one pullet, having had the misfortune to lose the cock early in the season.

I think Mr. Beale's statement of the weight—"cock about seven pounds, hen five"—much too low. The cock I imported weighed nine pounds the day I took him from his coop, and the hens will weigh about seven pounds each, I think, though I have not weighed them. I have, however, weighed three of the six cockerels—the youngest one weighing  $5\frac{1}{2}$ , the next  $6\frac{1}{2}$  and the oldest  $7\frac{1}{2}$  pounds. As the oldest cockerel is only about seven months old, and the youngest less than six, I think I feel justified in estimating that these male birds, when fully developed, will reach the weight of their sire—9 pounds. The oldest one has not fully obtained his hackle and saddle feathers, while the youngest is still in chicken plumage. I find, by reference to the standard adopted by the Indian Game Club, that my position on weight is corroborated, for that gives the weight as follows: "Weight in cock, 8 to 10 pounds, or more for adults; weight in hen,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to 7 pounds, or more for adults."

I am inclined to think, from my limited experience as well as the testimony of others who have bred the Indian Game longer than I have, that Mr. Beale gives the variety soant justice as layers. I have found my hens to be very good layers, and to lay an extraordinarily large egg. If weight rather than number of eggs is considered, the Indian Game hen will take rank among the best layers of the larger breeds. I know of but one other importer of this variety, and he gives the same testimony. He says: "As layers, I have found the hens A No. 1; not only do they 'shell out' well during the winter, but also through the heat of summer..... I think these birds will prove to be the best winter layers of the Game family." I cannot understand how Mr. Beale should state that the eggs are "rather small," for I have never kept a variety that laid a larger egg, and I have kept Brahmas, Cochins, Plymouth Rocks, Dorkings, Leghorns, Hamburgs, &c., having sometimes as many as nine or ten different varieties at once. It seems as if this were a mistake—a *lapsus pennæ*—or else my experience has been strangely exceptional.

**Size and Weight**—Large: weight in cock 8 to 10 lbs, or more for adults; weight in hen  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to 7 lbs or more for adults.

**General Appearance of both Sexes.**—Powerful and broad, very active, sprightly and vigorous, flesh to be firm in handling; plumage short and cannot be too level and close; carriage upright, commanding and courageous, the back sloping downwards towards the tail.

**Color of Cock.**—Breast, under body and thighs, a green glossy black; neck hackle, green glossy black with brown crimson shafts to the feathers, back saddle and saddle hackle, a mixture of rich, green, glossy black and brown crimson, the former predominating greatly; wing, bay chestnut with metallic green, glossy black wing bar; tail, green glossy black.

**Color of Hen.**—Ground colour, chestnut brown, with beautiful lacing of medium size, lacing of metallic green glossy black. This should look as if it were embossed or raised.

Shank, in both sexes, yellow or orange, the deeper the colour the better. Face, deaf-ears, wattles and comb, a rich red.

Concerning the value of the Indian Game as a cross for the production of table poultry, Mr. Beale has spoken in accord with other eminent poultry breeders when he pronounced it invaluable. For this purpose it has no equal. With the smallest possible amount of offal, and a very large amount of meat, most advantageously disposed upon the parts of greatest value, it furnishes a most valuable cross to the producer of

table poultry for market. Other English breeders, however, have gone farther than Mr. Beale in extolling its merits, when pure bred, for the table, ranking it equal to the best, even though the Dorking be so called.

In regard to the disposition of these fowls, I can only say that, so far as my experience has gone, I have found the Indian Game chickens no more quarrelsome than an equal number of Cochins. The hens are admirable sitters, faithful, and very gentle to handle.

I believe that this fowl will, upon further trial, be found a valuable addition to the poultry of this country. (1)

(1) A capital cross with Dorking hens for the table. A. R. J. F. Providence, R. I. H. S. BARCOCK.

## THE FARMER'S COW.

AN OLD SHORT-HORN BREEDER'S IDEAS.

(Editor Country Gentleman.)

I was much interested in an article in your paper some weeks ago, from my old friend, Hon. Lewis F. Allen, detailing an experience he was having in butter-making with a herd of grade Guernsey cows—because of the valuable details it contained of his excellent management, and because also of the fact that the communication was from an old friend with whom I had been a co-laborer in the cattle growing industry for nearly half a century.

It is surprising that Mr. Allen's health and mental vigour should be so well preserved to such an advanced age. But my object in sending you this note is to direct attention to the opinion Mr. Allen expresses in reference to the value of the Guernsey cow for a butter dairy. The editor of the Short-Horn Herd Book states that having bred Short Horns for forty years, and having a lot of grade cows of this blood on hand, he concluded to cross them with Guernsey bulls, and that his herd is now composed entirely of cows of this cross, being chiefly, as I conclude, of the Channel Island blood. The reason given for this experiment is that Short Horn breeders having given their attention to the development of excellence in beef production, the breed had in some measure lost its superiority in the dairy.

This is unquestionably true of breeders in some parts of the West, but I did not suppose it was true of the majority of New-York and New England breeders, and cannot understand why Mr. Allen's own practice should have changed to the exclusively bullock breeding type. Mr. Allen has always been the advocate of the Bates blood, and he will not need to be told how persistently that wonderful man always insisted that a breed of cattle that would not pay in the dairy as well as at the shambles could never be kept at a profit, and that his best bred Short-Horns were always kept in the dairy. He knows, too, that there are many herds in our day in this country, as well as in England, of the highest excellence in this most valuable property. He knows what grand milking Short-Horns were imported by John Hare Powell, of Pennsylvania, Ambrose Stevens and others of New York, and the Ohio Company, in the Scioto Valley, &c.

But, not to question the wisdom of Mr. Allen's experience, confined, as I understand it to be, to the business of butter-making, the reader will observe that nothing occurs in this account indicating that the Channel Island blood would be of value to the farmers of the country—that is, to men engaged in mixed husbandry, or cattle growing for the markets. There is a good deal written in these days to prove that it is impracticable to breed cattle for general use—for the production of both beef and milk. It is said that for the dairy we must have a race of cattle bred exclusively for that purpose;