

MESSRS. THOMPSON and SON, 75 King St. East, Toronto, are preparing a frame of photos of Toronto fanciers, and will be happy to receive a visit for a free picture from Toronto gentlemen of this "persuasion."

MR. R. HAMIL, has resigned the secretaryship of the St. Catharines Association.

MR. H. G. CHARLESWORTH, Toronto, formerly of Cochin fame, purposes again entering the arena, and we understand has blacks, buffs and whites on order from England.



RED CAPS.

BY H. H. HEWITT, WILLIAMSBURG PA.

A breed of domestic fowls possessing the unexampled qualities of the Red Caps, and pushing into favoritism with such speed, has attracted the attention of many who never gave poultry a thought before; and is being the means of enlisting in the ranks of breeders for practical purposes a number of individuals who will prove a credit to the profession.

This new and beautiful variety seems to be taking a firm hold in England and America. So strong are its claims for the "chicken of the million" that the most prominent fanciers of France, Belgium, and other parts of Europe are taking up the breed.

It is being exhibited at most of the leading shows of Europe in a class of its own. A Red Cap Club is being formed in this country, in keeping with those of Europe. Our poultry shows have and are noticing the breed by placing them on the list of new breeds.

It has come to stay. Why? Because they possess more important qualities

than any other breed. To properly realize the beauty of the breed, one must see it.

Imagine on a green lawn, standing proud, stately, a cock, weighing six to eight pounds; large, bright, red rose combs, well spiked and dotted nicely over top surface with small points; hackle, red striped with black; wattles and earlobes red; breast, black; saddle red striped with black; wing coverts, red; tail black; medium size; sickle feathers well developed; legs, slate; body, round, plump.

Again, imagine, beside this male bird, as if plucking the beautiful lustre from off its plumage, a hen, not the less beautiful, a rich chestnut color; each feather spangled with black; weighing five to six pounds; then, to cap it all, large, finely shaped, rose comb, being extremely attractive and from which they derive their name, Red Caps.

They are the best layers in existence, and, while they have this "par excellent quality," they embrace other desirable qualities, such as fine flesh, compact like the game, therefore a first class table fowl.

They dress up yellow, mature early, and for hardiness nothing equals them but the game. In my experience of fifteen years they are the brightest, peep from the time they leave the nest, and earlier raised, next to the game. If you can carry in your "mind's eye" their bright colors, their proud, erect, commanding appearance, together with their useful qualities, you then have the destined to be famous English Red Caps. I would state here, that all tendency to destroy the good qualities of this breed by endeavoring to breed on some "fanciers pet mark" in keeping with his "pet idea," I will strenuously oppose. Several late breeds that I know have been injured especially in that quality of others paramount, laying, by breeding on small combs, others by enlarging the size, etc. You show me a hen with a nice large comb, and

I will show you a good layer (just put a pin in here). Get your combs on Red Caps as large as you can and I will say, amen!

Disqualifications—Combs other than rose; wry tail, or deformity of any kind, or any indications of impurity, such as feathered legs, or foreign colored feathers in any part of plumage.

REDCAP COCK.

Head—Short and deep, in color reddish-brown; beak, dark horn color; eyes, red, full and bright; face, bright red.

Comb—Rose, setting firmly on the head, top full of small points, with straight spike behind; the larger the better, so it is firm and even and well off the eyes.

Ear-lobes and Wattles—Ear-lobes, red; wattles, medium size and bright red.

Neck—Rather long, with abundant hackle, flowing well over the back, in color dark golden red, each feather having a black stripe through its centre.

Back—Of medium length, sloping downward to tail, color black and rich red; saddle feathers, long and sweeping, in color deep rich red striped with black.

Breast and body—Breast rich purplish-black, full, round and carried well forward; body, long, round, heaviest forward, tapering to tail; underpart, dull black.

Wings—Closely folded; wing-bows, deep, rich, nut brown, each feather tipped with bluish-black spangle; wing-coverts, the same, except the spangle extends farther down the feather, forming the solid wing-bar; secondaries, black, the outside web of each feather broadly edged with brown, when wing is folded, presenting the appearance of a solid brown tipped wing; primary dull black.

Tail—Full and abundant, well furnished with sickles nicely curved; tail throughout should be black, sickles and coverts with rich greenish reflections.