

to say will hold their own at any show this side of the Atlantic, and with the addition of whites, blacks and yellows this class would have been perfect. The Fantails, one pair of whites in this exhibit, want improving, but the blues and blacks are excellent specimens, especially a black cock whose style and carriage was perfect, a blue cock, the same; in fact, either of them fit for any gentleman's loft. Tumblers—this class was very light, and needs looking after; one pair of Short-faced Almonds were, without doubt, a good pair of birds, also the Kite cock, one of the best birds in the show. The Black Nuns have correct markings, and were the only birds of their kind on exhibition. The Black and White owls are excellent birds, but cannot say the same about the Silvers. Blue and Red Swallows, shown as any other variety, are very good indeed, in fact it will take a perfect bird to beat them. The English Pheasants were greatly admired by visitors, and are without a doubt the best plumaged birds of this variety. There was very little competition in this class—only two pairs on exhibition. Take this gentleman's collection all through, I found the birds in good feather and all looking well, with only one or two exceptions.

Next we have the young and ardent fancier, Mr. N. Jeffrey, of Guelph, who makes a specialty of Fantails. All colors are represented except reds and yellows, which require an amount of care and attention in breeding to get them near the standard. He shows one pair of whites, the best in the show, very good in style and other points; two pairs of blues, nearly as good as the whites, also two pairs of blacks that will hold their own at any exhibition. His show of Fantails is a credit to him. I do not remember on any previous occasion seeing such a lot of Fans, all in such good condition as to feather.

Ireson & Co., of Toronto, made a very fine exhibit of Antwerps, chequers and solid colors, but I would like to have seen more short-faced in the class. They also show red, yellow and black-wing Turbits, all of which are really good birds, including one pair of Moorecaps in any other variety.

Wm. Barber, of Toronto, is a light exhibitor. He contributed one pair of good red Barbs, which have won many premiums, and money cannot buy them—they are equal to any I have seen; also some good blacks.

I would suggest that in future exhibitors be required to exhibit in coops provided by the society, thereby enabling the different varieties to be placed in rotation, or each variety by itself. It would be more suitable for all parties concerned, and enable the judges to make their awards perfect, and not overlook any entries, which is sometimes the

case under the present arrangement when there is an extra large exhibit. And again, I would recommend that the name of each variety be placed on the premium card, stating all particulars for which card has been awarded.

All that is now wanted is for a few more fancier to come into the field. Pigeon breeding is a delightful pastime, and it is a wonder to me that a greater number of our people do not engage in it.

Yours truly,

H. COOPER.

Hamilton, Jan'y 27th, 1885.

### Pigeons &c. at the Shows.

#### LISTOWEL.

Pet stock at this exhibition was slim, as a glance at the prize list will show, but notwithstanding this there were several birds of merit. A few of the local fanciers had some Fantails and Barbs on exhibition which sadly need improving. The hall and arrangements were everything that could be desired, and we must congratulate the committee on the success of their first exhibition.

#### SEAFORTH.

Pigeons were represented here by a solitary pair of Black Short-faced (?) Tumblers. Mr. J. Finch made a nice display of canaries and miscellaneous cage birds, including Java sparrows, goldfinches, mules, &c. Mr. D. T. Rogers showed a nice pen of one year old Silver Pheasants, the cock taking the silver medal for best male specimen; also some good Angora rabbits. In reporting the show one of the local papers said: "Among other rare birds we noticed parrots, raccoons and white rabbits." Verily birds are of numberless species.

#### CHATHAM.

Pigeons were not numerous, and modestly prohibits us criticising what were there. We understand there are several fanciers in Chatham who should have been out, also some in London who we expected to meet, as the distance is only 60 miles. Mr. J. M. McPherson exhibited some birds in Scotch Fancy show cages, the only cages of this kind we have seen in Canada. They were much admired for their neat and smart appearance, and showed off the best points of the birds to good advantage.

### Questions and Answers.

"Hutch"—Rabbits not breeding.

Ans.—Try feeding the doe for a few days on soaked pease. This will probably bring matters right.

"Dragoon"—Pigeons breeding.

Ans.—Separate the sexes at once, and mate up about the first of April. You cannot expect to raise your birds this season of the year without