

Poultry.

The Poultry Exhibit at the Western Fair.

BY R. A. BROWN.

This exhibit has been a complete success, and, as well as other exhibits, been well filled. This department at London is second to none in the Dominion; in fact I believe the very best poultry in the Dominion are west of Toronto, consequently and which accounts for this department being always represented with the pure quill. The old Machinery Hall is well adapted for this department. It gives plenty of room for birds and spectators, besides being cool and comfortable, and has plenty of ventilation, &c. I very much missed the coops for collections, which I think as well merited and useful as herds are amongst cattle and sheep, and hope the future directors will replace them at the next fair. I am of the opinion, and it is the prevailing one of visitors, that the attendants have been either badly paid or have not done their duty, for many coops were very filthy, having the appearance of a week's deposit without cleaning. I also think the Bantams were placed too high to either show well or enable the visitors to inspect them. Another cause of complaint was that the varieties were so scattered it was most difficult to find them and still worse to compare them among their own classes. For the good name of the Association in the future we hope this last named grievance will be seen to and amended, so as to appear somewhat on an equal with other shows. I am quite aware that it is a hard matter to judge so large an exhibit and give justice to all, but some very glaring defects are too obvious to pass over without noticing them, and do not wish to point out the exact coops, but the visitors were somewhat surprised at the decisions, but not more so than the breeders, as some have made very dismal complaints as to the effects of the judgments. However, I earnestly hope that the judges will in the future take a little more pains in making their awards, as I am well satisfied that this one has not been perfect. As to the breeders, I am informed that there has been some probing and plucking done, but not to a very alarming extent. The exhibit of Plymouth Rocks was not very large, but some choice birds were on hand. In Leghorns the Whites were very nice, but I presume were hastily judged in the aged birds, as were the Browns in the chicks class. In the adult Brown Leghorns I think there has been a deviation from the standard, both in breeding and judging, as regards the size of the comb. Hamburgs were well represented, but there was some squealing amongst exhibitors. In Cochins the birds were well merited, but badly placed to inspect such huge frames. Brahmas were rather below the average, in respect to either quantity or quality, of past years. Polish were in full-blast and commanded the highest attention. Amongst the feathered tribe Houdans were not numerous, and there was a vast difference in color. As they were mated, we should say some were too dark. The Spanish seem to be almost given up, as there was only a small lot and poor. Dorkings were not numerous; the Silver Greys were *par excellence*. Games were in full force, and real good specimens were here in each class, but every exhibitor has not been delighted with the awards, as was quite evident from their language. Two monster pairs of Bronze Turkeys were well worthy attention. The Geese were better represented than in some previous years, and really up to standard requisites. The Ducks were worthy of a more prominent place than they had. Bantams were very well in dress, but some sick ones made their appearance. There were some Pigeons, and at that corner of the hall might be seen a busy throng, at any hour of the day, of visitors inspecting those pretty and useful pets; and so ends the Poultry Department of the Western Fair for 1882.

The Poultry at the Industrial Exhibition.

As far as excellence of birds and numbers, the show was a success. It is doubtful if ever there has been a better display of poultry in Canada. For some reason the birds were not on view till about five o'clock on Tuesday evening. The rules distinctly state that all entries were to be made not later than the 26th August, and the birds to be delivered not later than the 11th September. Surely any person intending to exhibit ought to be able to make up their minds by those dates. Yet we found that entries were being made after the time that birds ought to have been on view. One favored individual, we were creditably informed, made 40 entries after the appointed time. Was that just to the other exhibitors? Taking entries after the date fixed leaves an opening for fraud; it enables those behind the scenes to see the birds on hand, and know how the different classes are filled, and enables them to put in birds and thus obtain prizes, especially when a class is but poorly represented, instead of coming forth in honorable competition. The rules should have been strictly adhered to. Of course there was the usual amount of grumbling, and in some cases, we think, with good cause, notably in Aylesbury Ducks. The first prize was awarded to the bird that won last year; the ticket was allowed to remain upon the pen for some time when the bird was disqualified, and the prize given to a bird belonging to an influential member of the Association. It was nearly worthless for breeding purposes, being all broken down behind. It was not even on view with the other birds, but was kept in a pen outside the poultry house. Also in the best breeding pen of Brahmas the red ticket was suddenly removed from the pen that the prize had been first awarded to and the birds disqualified because one of the birds was wrongly marked, and the prize given to a pen in which the whole of the birds were marked similarly to the bird that caused disqualification of the other pen, the unfortunate owner of which sarcastically remarked that the real difference was that he was not a member of the Poultry Association. There seemed to be no stint of money for prizes, as awards were made for a common red fox, the animal being stowed away behind the building. Prizes were also given to a pair of white mice and a red squirrel. We were at a loss to understand what these creatures had to do with a poultry exhibition. As the *Ontario*, or it might be more properly designated the *Toronto*, Poultry Association seem to run the poultry exhibit, perhaps it would be as well if the Arts and Industrial Association were to hand over to them the whole of the prize list for division among the members of the Poultry Association in consideration of their filling the pens with different varieties of birds. This plan would do away with the trouble and expense of judging and save annoyance to exhibitors who have to bring birds from a distance.

POULTRY MANURE.—Poultry manure is well worth saving. It contains when dry, in 1,000 pounds, about 40 pounds of nitrogen, 20 pounds of potash, 2½ pounds of soda, 60 pounds of lime, 17 pounds of magnesia, 36 of phosphoric acid, and 10 pounds of sulphuric acid. These are worth at the market prices of fertilizers about \$15, equal to \$30 a ton. This, however, is much less than is popularly supposed to be the value of this manure, which some persons think to be equal to guano, or \$90 a ton at the above valuation. But to preserve all its fertilizing value the droppings should be carefully saved each day and mixed with a quantity of plaster and put into a dry place where they may not become subjected to any injurious fermentation. The best way to keep it is in close barrels, in which it may slowly decompose without loss of ammonia. The mixture of plaster adds nothing to its value, but preserves all its elements, and especially the nitrogen, from waste by absorbing the ammonia produced by its decomposition.

At this season of the year our subscribers are particularly requested to send short, chatty and practical accounts of their visits to the township and other shows. Let the boys and girls also try and send in their notes of points of interest, improvements and novelties observed by them.

The Apiary.

Preparing Bees for Winter.

I have wintered my bees successfully for several seasons by preparing them as follows:

Contract the brood chamber to 6 or 7 frames, in which have 20 to 25 pounds honey, cut a hole of about ¾ inch through each comb about 2 inches below top bar, lay a stick about 8 inches long, ¾ inch square across top of frames, cover with sheeting, woolen cloths or quilts, then an old sack of loose texture containing about a bushel of oat chaff pressed in close, then the cover or cap with a hole 1½ inch bored at each gable end, and covered inside with wire cloth for ventilation. Around the hive a box, about 6 inches space all around for packing, which is filled with oat chaff and covered to prevent getting wet. For entrance, have a 5-inch bottomless trough 7 inches long, about 5 inches wide and 4 inches high inside.

My hives are mostly simplicity style, 2 story, movable cap, frames, 10½x14 inches. I pack chaff about 6 inches higher than the brood chamber. During the winter I keep the snow from entrance, and on fair days I remove the cover from outside box and cap from hive, to let the packing as the moisture passes through the chaff and settles on top like frost.

If the weather is mild enough, we take the bags with chaff off, and expose to sun and air until dry. This had best be done only on days when the bees can fly, as to work around the hives will likely disturb them and break the cluster, which should be guarded against. I usually leave them packed until the weather is settled and the bees find some honey and pollen.

During warm days in March, I place rye and oats chopped together, where the bees can work at it in sheltered places, and they work at it quite readily. By this plan I have wintered successfully and had early swarms, while most bees around me were either dead or very weak the past season.—[W. H. S., in Bee Journal.]

The Chevaux-de-Force Hurdle System of Grazing.

The following are the particulars of the second results obtained under this system at Colinton, Midlothian, as ascertained by the weights of two lots of sheep, as taken when the sheep were put on the grass and taken off:—

WEIGHT OF 5 SHEEP OF LOT OF 20, AS TAKEN.				WEIGHT OF 5 SHEEP OF LOT OF 34, AS TAKEN.			
	July 3rd.	Aug. 21st.			June 30th.	Aug. 21st.	
No. 1	102½ lbs.	118½ lbs.		No. 1	108 lbs.	128½ lbs.	
2	96½ "	113½ "		2	99 "	116½ "	
3	101 "	121½ "		3	105 "	125 "	
4	82½ "	96 "		4	98½ "	122 "	
5	97½ "	121 "		5	105½ "	124 "	
	480	570½			516	616	

The lot of 34 were small and inferior half-bred hogs of the Cheviot and Leicester cross, and the lot of 20 were "three-parts bred," but altogether inferior sheep of their class. The time between putting the sheep on and taking them off the grass was about 7 weeks, showing a live weight gain for the 54 sheep of 1,015 lbs. Adding this to the weight previously obtained by the first lot of 30 sheep in nine weeks (1,145 lbs.), it brings up the total weight of the first and second results, obtained between the first week of April and the 21st of August, to 2,160 lbs., which is the produce of less than two acres of grass-land and feeding stuffs, the latter of which costs 6d. per week for saccharated feeding meal. Taking the live weight given of 2,160 lbs. at 5½d. per lb. as its value at the market quotation of mutton, 10d. and 10½d. per lb., a margin is shown at the credit of the system of £49 10s., obtained upon two lots of sheep from April to 21st August, on the small area of two acres of grass. The third result will be given at the end of October with another fifty sheep.—[Live Stock Journal.]

"I never let an opportunity slip of saying a word for the *Advocate*. I am only a woman, and a woman is not supposed to understand farming, still, I raise better stock than my neighbors, who do not take the *Advocate*." M. HALL.

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"The best paper I have ever read."—W. SCHLICHTER, New Dundee, Ont.