

acknowledge that any good can come out of any mind but his own; and would not say it all.

Again, it may be objected that the American judges adhere too rigidly to the "American Standard of Excellence," and we find among the conditions or rules for the guidance of exhibitors at our show, the following: "The American Standard of Excellence shall be the guide of the judges upon all varieties named therein;" and yet many of some at least of our judges refuse to be guided in all cases by it. If these gentlemen would write out their standard there would at least be some show of fairness in the thing; but evidently their standard is not reducible to writing as it changes according to the style of their own stock. Can anything be imagined which is calculated to work more evil to the true poultry interest, than this very uncertainty as to what standard our birds shall be judged by. A judge must be mighty full of himself—the bump of self-esteem highly developed—who will put his own individual opinion in opposition to this "Standard," which is the result of the experience and deliberation of the combined American fanciers for years. But says one, "Some of the American fanciers object to some of the conditions of the test," but if this objection is founded upon an honest desire to have it improved why do they not put in an appearance when this test is upon revision, and there present their grievance, and offer their proposed correction? But no, their idea of improvement would have to be sifted by discussion, and their self-esteem would not submit to that, and every man who deferred from them, must be actuated by selfish notions.

It seems to me that few institutions have been built up in a more reasonable, intelligent way than this Standard. It may be Republican to write out a constitution and afterwards change it from time to time as occasion demands. Suppose Mr. Estes did write out the constitution in the first place, has it not been open to revision each year ever since. And now if any Canadian desires to have a word in its compilation let him speak or forever hold his peace. Surely then, the legitimate way to secure the correction of this test, if it is imperfect, is to agitate for it, both in the poultry press and by formulating their opinions, and let it come before the assembled fanciers for consideration and discussion, and not by striking out on their own hook in judging, create discord and disunion, frustrating the efforts of a good government to encourage the improvement of fine poultry in Canada.

Yours fraternally,
STANLEY SPILLET.

Lefroy, Dec. 5th, 1882.

This issue completes vol. 5. Renew at once.

Judges and Scoring.

Editor Review: I have not time to write you more than a few lines.

As the show of the 'Poultry Association of Ontario' is to be held in Toronto in February next, it is to be hoped that we may see some one appointed judge who has no axe to grind. From what I have seen during the last three or four years I am almost persuaded that the question with most of our judges has been who should have the premiums; rather than which are the best birds; or in other words, the premiums have been awarded to the owners and not to the birds. We sometimes find that the premiums might as well be awarded before the little farce of judging is gone over as afterwards; for Mr. A. is an official, and Mr. B. has gone to considerable trouble, and Mr. C. is an old friend, &c.; &c. and they must have some prize tickets to take home or we will not be called upon to act as judges again. I have seen two judges appointed, both being exhibitors. This does not put a judge in a very enviable position, as no matter how well he does his duty he is sure to have some fault found; and if he has, it is his own look out, for he should not place himself in such a position.

Then again, at some of our shows, the *American Standard* seems to be ignored entirely, and how the various decisions are arrived at would puzzle the judges themselves if they were outside the ring.

The judges are not the only ones who neglect their duty, for we find that some exhibitors are so greedy for premiums that in order to secure them they will borrow and exhibit what are not their own. I have seen the same fowls exhibited at one show one week as being the property of Mr. D., and at another show a few weeks later as the property of Mr. E., whereas no change of ownership had taken place, and the real *bona fide* owner was neither of them.

How is it, Mr. Editor, that we find so much contemptible meanness in connection with the poultry business? We find that many of our so-called great breeders send out eggs from their yards which are anything but what they should be. I bought a setting of Brown Leghorns eggs from a breeder and got eleven chicks from thirteen eggs, but only one was pure bred. I had them all colors both in legs and feather, and as for style, shape, size and comb, I got a little of everything, so of course, I rested quite contented. We have some of the same class of breeders in Ontario to-day.

Let us have judges who recognize some Standard by which to judge, and are not influenced by any fear of offending exhibitors. Any person exhibiting fowls that are not in every respect his own, should be made to feel that he is doing an act that