

suit with common hens, for although they might lay well for a time, yet with the approach of warm weather every hen would go on strike, and sit with a determination that would discourage her owner. But among the non-sitting pure breeds a variety could be selected that would fill the requirements of the case completely, the Hamburgs, Leg-horns, or any of the Spanish races would prove highly satisfactory as layers; and if in addition to egg production, good edible qualities are looked for, the Houdan could not fail to please.

Then again, in the neighborhood of the large cities many people make a speciality of raising Spring chickens for market, to be killed when they weigh from three to six pounds per pair; in order to make the greatest possible profit, they must have chicks that are hardy, grow rapidly, feather quickly, and look well when killed. Buyers demand a plump chicken with yellow skin and clean bright yellow legs. If our chicken raiser is long-headed he will soon discover that chickens sent in lots for sale, to a first-class city trade, will always command the highest price, if in addition to the qualifications already mentioned, they also present a uniform appearance.

Here again it will be seen that the mongrel fowls would not suit; suppose they were as hardy, grow as quickly, and feather as well as any others, still they would not meet the requirements of the consumer; some might have yellow skin, but others would be white, others again would present a reddish and some a bluish tinge that is not at all appetising. Then, in the colour of the leg the mongrel chickens would be away off, exhibiting all shades from black to white. But it may be asked what difference does this make? as consumers do not eat the shanks; it makes a great deal of difference, appearance is not everything, but it is next thing to it now a days; custom demands a yellow leg and turns up its nose at a blue one, and I don't blame it either, for it cer-

tainly does not look nice. A poulterer with a lot of such chicks as these for sale, would appear to considerable disadvantage alongside of his neighbour who raised for this purpose nothing but thoroughbred Plymouth Rocks, which fill the bill completely; for early spring chickens they certainly have no superiors, and in my opinion no equals, they are hardy, grow and feather rapidly; have bright yellow legs and skin, and present a better appearance than any others; I am speaking of the markets of Canada and the United States; in England they would not do at all, custom demanding white legs and white skin.

(To be continued.)

## POSTAGE.

### *Editor Review :*

I have just read Mr. Kennedy's letter in regard to why breeders ask for a stamp for reply, etc. I, for one, am not in the habit of doing so, but, Mr. Editor, I will endeavor now to explain the above question and in a manner which will throw some light on the subject. Every breeder of long experience is fully aware that it is only out of ten to fifteen letters of inquiry that one order is received. This is not only my experience but the experience of all experienced breeders, as I have frequently seen articles or letters written to this effect in different poultry journals.

The poultry business is not the same as that of the merchant or grocer. It is to some a mere hobby, to others a luxury in a manner, and others breed for curiosity for a time. We must have our tea, sugar, and other articles, etc., but every person is not bound to buy fancy poultry. How often have we breeders, while attending the poultry shows, noticed strollers marching around the rows of coops, taking a casual look at the poultry, enquiring from exhibitors the different prices of fowls, and when they are told the price they

will say "humph," (excuse the word,) and finally pass out of the show room without buying a single bird. Now those are the persons who when writing us, we would be pleased to receive a stamp from. I have just lately had a case of this kind. A person wrote me five times about P. Rocks, stating he would pay no fancy prices. I gave different prices, according to quality, from \$3 to \$6, and as much higher as he wished to go, but all fell through. Five letters, fifteen cents worth of stamps, not including my time, which was worth more than the postage. Now, say ten of such letters for each and every order, on an average would be \$1.50.

Now, Mr. Editor, it is not because I do not sell and make as much money out of two varieties of fowls as any other breeder, that I write this, for my sales last year amounted to \$182, which I consider very good.

Yours truly,

JAS. CARSON.

Orangeville.

## HOUDANS.

### *Editor Review :*

In an article on Houdans in a June contemporary the writer, Mr. J. A. Wilson, states that he thinks he can solve the problem why Houdans have not been among the foremost standard breeds. First he states that "they are handsome when well bred," (which nobody will dispute), "but great care must be taken of them or their beauty is lost." Now I find that it does not take any more care to keep them looking well than it does any other kind of thoroughbred fowl. I would also like to ask Mr. Wilson what kind of fowl does look well when wet? In regard to their being in greater danger of becoming sick, my experience is the very opposite, as it is very rarely that one gets sick. The writer also states that "he has had some splendid layers, and some very poor ones;" I would like to know what breed there is that