

have become avowed poultry importers, devoting to it their time and attention, and in a few instances have crossed the Atlantic with the view of more firmly establishing their business with breeders there. The produce of fowls imported in previous years, with the chickens raised from imported eggs, have also had a brisk sale, many of our Canadian and American breeders purchasing and interchanging with each other.

The class of fowls most sought after were those of the larger or Asiatic breeds, and among these the Buff and Partridge Cochins and Dark Brahma varieties were most in demand. Houdans are fast coming into notice, and a number of sales have been made during the year, chiefly, however, of birds hatched from imported eggs, or the produce of such birds. The direct importations of this variety during the year have not been numerous.

The days of the Dorking, Black Spanish and Polish fowls are evidently on the decline: the importations have been but few, and the demand still less. To what cause this may be attributable we are not now prepared to say, but it is evident they are not able to compete with their more aristocratic brethren, the Asiatic breeds, in the race for supremacy which is now being run between the different varieties of the feathered tribe. As the red man of the forest had to recede before the pale faces, so have the Dorking, Black Spanish and Polish fowls to make way for the Cochin, the Brahma and the Houdan.

The Hamburg fowl continues to hold its own; a hardy bird, beautiful to look on, and of the everlasting layer class, it is likely to continue to do so. Of the different varieties the spangled birds seem to be the most rare, and enquiries for that variety have of late been frequently made.

Importations of Rouen and Aylesbury Ducks have been made during the year,

and attention seems directed towards the improvement of the duck tribe by the infusion of new blood. The Muscovy and Black Cayuga are not so numerous in Canada, but are in good request in the United States. The White Crested Duck has nearly disappeared from our exhibitions, and is but seldom to be met with in poultry yards.

The progress made in Canada towards the improvement of poultry during the past year has on the whole been very satisfactory, more especially in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. All county and township agricultural societies worthy of note include poultry in their prize lists, and the inquiry for improved breeds is greatly on the increase. Of this fact we were recently assured by Professor Buckland of the Bureau of Agriculture, who had just then returned from his annual fall tour through the Province, in the course of which frequent enquiries were made of him on this subject. The frequent applications made for specimen copies of this journal also indicate the desire evinced for poultry information.

In the United States also great progress has been made, in proof of which we point to the number of new poultry societies formed, and exhibitions held during the year: throughout the Northern, Western, and New England States, a portion of the Southern States, in California, and even in Utah, has the demand for pure-bred poultry steadily increased; and but few people have any idea of the large amount of money paid for poultry during the year by United States breeders and importers: yet we can safely say that the poultry trade is only in its infancy.

Never before did poultry-breeding receive the same attention, or assume the same proportions it has during the past year; never before has the same interest been evinced, or the same desire manifested in procuring pure-bred fowls