

but are very often neglected with the average farm flock. The main form of feeding on the farm is to take a pail of grain, throw it on the ground or the bare floor and let the hens help themselves; this with a little water is about all they get, whereas if the whole grain were fed in about six inches of clean litter, covered up so that the hens had to work for what they got, if the grain feed were supplemented by rolled oats as a dry mash or by boiled potatoes, meat scraps, boiled bran or some such material as a wet mash and plenty of green food and grit given, better results would be invariably obtained. It is just the difference between carelessness and indifference and good attention which causes so many farm flocks to be failures and so few to be successes.

Pointers for Canadian Poultry Shows.

FROM THE "SHOW ME" STATE.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The Missouri State Poultry Show that was held in St. Louis the last week of November had so many exceptionally interesting features, a brief description of it may be acceptable to the poultry breeders of Canada, and especially so to those who manage exhibitions of a similar nature. There have been bigger shows in Canada, such as the one held in connection with the National Live Stock and Dairy Exhibition in Toronto a year ago, but I have never seen one there or here that surpassed, or even equalled, this one in uniform quality of stock shown, in all-round attractiveness and in educational features. There were nearly 3,500 entries in the poultry department and 700 pigeons. Thirty-seven women entered birds in their own names, to say nothing of a large number of other exhibits represented by women, the entries being in their husbands' names. The ladies were especially encouraged to show their birds, and still more encouragement will be given next year.

The coops were arranged in single tiers from one end of the building to the other, and placed at a proper height from the floor to enable the visitors to look across the show-room and see the whole exhibition at one glance. This is a feature that could well be copied at countless other shows where it has been the custom to pile the coops two and three deep and thereby block the views in all directions. On top of the rows of coops were placed at intervals pots of foliage plants that added greatly to the appearance. The coops were without solid partitions and gave the visitors an unobstructed view down the entire line. The fowls were classified and placed in the building according to the classification of the American Poultry Association standard, beginning with Barred Rocks in the first tier of coops, and so on. Special coops were prepared for game and wild birds, such as pheasants, Canadian wild geese, wild ducks, storks, etc., and placed together in the centre of the hall.

The best male bird in the show was a White Rock cockerel, owned by L. H. Wible, of Chanute, Kansas. It was awarded a gold medal by the American Poultry Association. This bird took first prize in a class of twenty-eight, two of the losers having been listed in the "sales bureau" of the show at \$150 each.

Some of the comparatively new breeds of poultry were strongly in evidence, such as Buff Minorcas, Campines, Buttercups and White Fluffs. There were over one hundred Buckeyes, and their merits deserved the attention that they received.

A FIFTEEN-POUND CAPON.

The Capon exhibit was said to be the largest ever cooped in one show. It comprised fifty-seven birds. First prize went to a Barred Rock capon which weighed fifteen pounds, shown by George Beauv, of Cedar Vale, Kansas. Throughout the week's period of the show many demonstrations in caponizing were given by Mr. Beauv and others. This proved to be one of the most instructive features of the exhibition. No other attraction drew larger crowds.

While all varieties and breeds of poultry were to be seen, the public seemed to be attracted most by the white varieties. The exhibitors of these were well repaid, therefore, for the extra attention and care that such varieties require for best appearance in the show room. They had to be washed and rinsed and blued and in other ways made presentable, even to having their leg scales and toe-nails cleaned. In regard to this latter point, a word from an address by Prof. S. T. Patterson, of Mountain Grove, Mo., where is located the State Poultry Experiment Station, may be of interest. "For utility, select the birds with short toe-nails, not long ones," he said. "Short toe-nails are a sure indication that the bird is a hustler."

FOWL FEATHERS FOR MY LADY'S HAT.

Feathers from a Missouri-bred chicken may become the vogue in millinery creations, according to Mrs. J. D. Rice, Hickory, Mo., who displayed a new breed at the show. This variety is the latest creation in chic'endom, and has been named the Missouri White Fluff.

The breed originated in a freak or "sprig" of the White Plymouth Rock. The first chick was found in a hock raised by Mrs. Rice five years ago. When matured it had feathers with small quills. In form and color they resemble the White Rocks. They cannot fly on account of the lack of tail and wing feathers.

Mrs. Rice is striving to produce a breed that will produce feathers fine enough and fancy enough for millinery purposes. She has had plums made out of the feathers, and says that they are very attractive. The feathers can be cleaned easily and will remain fluffy after washing in soap suds.

Another interesting exhibit was a White Rock pullet that at seven months of age had a clutch of chickens of her own. According to an affidavit on her coop, this pullet was hatched on April 1st, stole her nest in fall, laid the eggs and appeared on November 1st, with a brood of four chicks.

A CHAMPION HEN.

At the International egg-laying contest conducted at Mountain Grove, Mo., during the past year ending November 30th, the championship for individual production was won by a Nebraska single comb White Leghorn, with a record of 286 eggs. Her egg production by months was as follows:—December, 17; January, 23; February, 18; March, 18; April, 30; May, 30; June, 27; July, 27; August, 28; September, 21; October, 26; and November, 21. At the poultry show in St. Louis, a sister of the champion was exhibited, and a prize of \$5.00 was offered to the person suggesting the most suitable name for the champion. Thousands of names were submitted. The selection has not yet been made. This created much interest and fun, and might be adopted in some way or another at shows elsewhere.

There was in the hall an exceptionally large showing of turkeys and ducks. Bronze turkeys and Bourbon Reds, a beautiful breed, were out in large size and fine quality. In ducks, Indian Runners predominated. The turkeys were shown in large coops placed where all might see, and not stuck in a corner out of the way as is the case at most shows. Entries in geese were almost nil. There was a curiosity, however, in the shape of a goose that had three wings.

SHOW OPEN ON SUNDAY.

The show was concluded on a Sunday, but no business was conducted on that day, although sight-seers were admitted. The feature of this final day was a "champion parade," whereby all the first-prize birds were arranged in coops just inside the entrance to the hall.

An important feature of the show was the display of poultry appliances, representing complete equipment for poultry yards and farms, including incubators, brooders, automatic feeders, trap nests, exhibition and shipping coops, cartons for sending eggs by parcel post, etc. Booths for these things, as well as for representatives of the poultry and farm press, were arranged in a continuous line around the walls of the building. Such a systematic arrangement helped the general scheme of attractiveness. Soliciting for subscriptions was not allowed outside of the allotted space for press booths.

An excellent feature was an "information bureau" located immediately inside the main entrance. There was a ways someone in this booth to give information to visitors, exhibitors, judges and officials regarding the daily program, the winnings, names of breeders, and other facts about the show, as well as best hotels to stop at, and anything else that they might be asked. This lightened the work of the secretary, superintendent and assistants, and was a boon to everyone.

A "sales department" also was maintained with always someone in charge who attempted to dispose of birds listed there for sale. Exhibitors were required to state on the entry blank the price of any birds that they would have at the show for sale, and also, if they wished, the numbers and prices of cockerels and pullets that they had at home for sale.

IN THE LECTURE ROOM.

Lectures, demonstrations and short courses continually took place, morning, afternoon and evening, in the lecture room during the entire week of the show. Many business and directors' meetings also were held. The whole question of poultry breeding and raising, from start to finish, for beginners and for professionals, was dealt with. In order to help and encourage the young people in and around the city of St. Louis to raise more and better poultry, a short course was given during the week. Each afternoon about 4.30 o'clock, the young folks were instructed by an expert and great interest was taken in the proceedings. The Missouri State Poultry Experiment Station offered a trio of standard-bred chickens each to the girl and boy having the highest grade examination papers covering the course, and a prize of \$2.50 was offered to the boy and another to the girl rating second in the examinations. Many of the children attended also the lectures for grown-ups to get as much information as possible.

One evening toward the end of the week, a banquet was held at a leading hotel of the city, at which the Governor of the State, the secretary of the State Board of Agriculture and other prominent persons delivered addresses. A number of ladies were present and some of them spoke. All through the proceedings of the week, at the show, in the lecture room and at the banquet, the work and enthusiasm of the lady poultry raisers were potent factors in contributing to the success of the event.

One of the lecturers, Prof. H. L. Kempster, of the College of Agriculture, Columbia, referred, in conversation with the undersigned, to his friendship and admiration for Prof. W. R. Graham, of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, saying that he spends a day or more every summer at Guelph with Professor Graham in order to keep in touch with the work that is being done at Guelph so ably for the benefit of the poultry industry of Canada and of all America.

St. Louis, Mo.

A. B. CUTTING.

HORTICULTURE.

Building Up the Fruit Market for British Columbia.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The British Columbia Apple Growers have been endeavoring to capture the Alberta market because they feel it is theirs, in a sense, on account of its proximity. We are growing good stuff and putting up, in general a highly graded pack. The British Columbia Government is certainly working to do all it can to assist the apple growers. It has good men well trained as advisers and lecturers and is helping us to solve our problem of markets.

At Summerland they have established a pre-cooling plant where experiments for the treatment of soft fruits have been wonderfully successful and statistics have been compiled that will govern our future actions and will be immensely valuable in handling cots and peaches.

The Market Commissioner, F. Smith, under Government employ was instructed to work with the wholesalers in order to organize the B. C. apple week. The financing of this came out of the sale of apples. The following editorial appeared in the Calgary Herald and speaks for itself:—

"B.C. apple week in Calgary was a wonderful success. Never before in the history of this city have the people bought apples in such quantity, and never before have they been given such splendid opportunity to make their purchases. In the results of the exhibition there are at least two lessons not likely soon to be forgotten. So far as the people are concerned, thousands have been converted to the apple eating habit—a habit they will not willingly abandon. As for the apple growers they have learned a wonderful lesson in the value of judicious advertising. The apple week campaign was wisely planned. Every agency necessary for its success was made use of, and there was no skimping at any point. Merchants gave their assistance, and the growers used newspaper space generously to acquaint the people with every detail of the scheme. It no doubt cost the growers a good deal of money to put the show on, but it was money well spent. Calgary to-day eats B.C. apples, and eats them in immense quantities. So long as the growers continue to ship in the fruit, and the price is right, Calgary will be a B.C. apple centre."

During Apple Week, at Victoria, Mr. Robertson, the manager of the Okanagan United Growers was speaking at an apple luncheon held by the Victoria Rotary Club and assured his hearers that the fruit sent from the Okanagan for Apple Week was not selected but the usual pack. He commended the movement and its broadening tendency and the influence it would have on the marketing of the ever increasing output of the Okanagan, where in 1900 only 8,000 acres were under fruit in all of British Columbia, and where now 38,000 acres, which are still being increased, produced this year 6,000 carloads of fruit. He mentioned also that \$20,000,000 were invested in the fruit industry in this province. From this investment and its product they have been able to control, for the first time the Alberta market and have shut out American fruit completely.

Still there remains much to be done in the apple situation. Mr. Winslow is trying to find out what apple is really the best suited to the Okanagan and is going at it in a scientific way. That this is much needed can easily be seen. From one place in the valley a car with twenty different varieties was shipped out and it stands to reason that the majority must be of inferior quality because they are not suited to the climate. So far he knows that Jonathan, Wagner and old Winesap are the best so far planted. He claims that the proper way to investigate is to find out the number of heat units developed during the season in a locality and then find out the apple that requires that many to develop it. To this