

do not consider them any more so than any of the other large single-combed breeds. I consider them just as hardy as the Leghorns, and I have kept both kinds in the same house, where the combs of the Leghorns have been frozen and the Spanish not, and I think it a mistaken idea some people have got about their being so tender. Now Canada is much colder than some of the States which lie to the south of us, yet Canadian breeders have carried off the principal honors at the Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit shows for some years on the Black Spanish. Now, if they are such a tender variety, how can they be brought to such perfection in our cold climate? It is true they have some bad qualities, as have all breeds. They cannot be confined as closely as some varieties, or they will become addicted to feather and egg-eating. But give them a good run and no breed will give a better return for the trouble bestowed upon them.

The chicks should be hatched rather early, that is, not later than the 15th of June, as they are longer in fledging than any other variety I know of; they must have their feathers well grown before the early fall frosts catch them, or they will not thrive well, but will gradually pine away and be worthless.

They lay a fine, large, snow-white egg, and, I believe will lay a greater weight in the year than any other variety, and as winter layers cannot be excelled. They are non-sitters. As a table fowl we cannot praise them so highly; the flesh is of good flavor and juicy, but its dark color is not generally liked.

They are one of the oldest established breeds, and in the past have not received that attention which their many good qualities entitle them to, but I am pleased to see that fanciers are now taking quite an interest in them. At our late shows some very fine specimens have been shown, and the entries are becoming larger year by year; and I believe the day is not far distant when the Black Spanish class will be as large as any other at our exhibitions.

The *Standard of Excellence* describes Black Spanish as follows:

DISQUALIFICATIONS.

Clear red marks in the face or above the eyes; the comb of the cock drooping or twisted; legs other than blue, or dark leaden-blue; face so puffy as to obstruct the sight; wry tails, or other deformity; small or erect comb in the hen.

THE COCK.

HEAD AND FACE.—Head, long, broad and deep, and the plumage a rich, glossy black:—Beak, rather long and stout, and of a dark horn-color:—Eyes,

red, full and bright:—Face, pure opaque-white, long and deep, the greater the depth of white surface the better, provided it is smooth, free from wrinkles, and the sight is not obstructed, rising well over the eyes, towards the comb, in an arched form, extending towards the back of the head and to the base of the beak, covering the cheeks, and joining the ear-lobes and wattles.

COMB: Bright red, large, single, firmly set on the head, stiff, erect, straight, free from twists in front, or falling over to either side at the back, deeply and evenly serrated, and rising from the beak, between the forepart of the nostrils, and extending in an arched form over the back of the head, free from excrescences or side-sprigs, and not too thick at the edge.

EAR-LOBES AND WATTLES: Ear-lobes, pure opaque-white, very large and pendant, rather thin, smooth, well expanded, and free from folds or wrinkles; extending well on each side of the neck, hanging down very low, not pointed, but regularly rounded on the lower part, and meeting in front, behind the wattles:—Wattles, bright red, very long, thin, ribbon-like and pendulous, the inside of the upper part white.

NECK: Long and gracefully arched, the hackle abundant, and reaching well over the shoulders, and rich, glossy black in color.

BACK: Slanting evenly to the tail, and, in color, a rich, lustrous black.

BREAST AND BODY: Breast, full, round and prominent—color, deep black:—body, of medium width in front, and narrowing to the tail; the general plumage a rich, brilliant black.

WINGS: Large, well and smoothly folded against the body: the primaries and secondaries a deep black, and the wing-coverts a rich, lustrous black.

TAIL: Large, expanded, and rather upright, but not carried over the back, or squirrel-tailed, and deep, rich black in color; sickle-feathers, large and gracefully curved,—rich, metallic-black in color; tail-coverts, abundant, nicely curved, and a brilliant glossy black in color.

LEGS: Thighs, rather long and slender, and the plumage a rich, deep black; Shanks, long and slender, color, blue or dark leaden-blue.

CARRIAGE: Upright and proud.

THE HEN.

HEAD AND FACE: Head, long, the plumage a rich, deep black; Beak, long and stout, and dark horn color; eyes, full and bright; Face, pure opaque white, smooth, and free from wrinkles, with great breadth of surface, rising well over the eyes in an arched form, extending well towards the back of the head and to the beak, covering the cheek, and joining the ear-lobes and wattles.

COMB: Bright red, large, single, serrated, droop-