

ditional weight from one who has had long practical experience of our English branch of the fancy: "To lay down some arbitrary Standard, and insist upon the judges acting entirely upon it, would be to judge by a yard measure, and be so purely mechanical an action that there would be no scope for real judging work to be done. Often a bird that is undeniably the best in a class, is not the one that would win if judging by points was rigidly adhered to. Standards are very valuable for the general understanding they give as to what is the kind of bird which has to be bred for, but their influence should be in the way of permeation rather than unyielding rigidity. And that this process of permeation goes on no one can doubt who has watched the course of events."

OLLUF.

England, July 10, 1884.

### The Scotch Fancy Canary.

I do not say, Mr. Editor, that I know all, or anything like all, of this most beautiful Canary, although I have bred Scotch Fancies a good many years, for it is a very difficult bird to breed to perfection. The pairing is the great thing in the Scotch Fancy Canary.

I am sure it would be better for all if we knew more of this most beautiful Canary. I will give you my idea what a Scotch Fancy Canary is.

He is a noble-looking Canary, smart to look at, and quick in action.

The head must be well carried to the front, not raised in the air; this is a great objection in the Scotch Fancy Canary. The head must be small and flat on the top; a large, coarse head or high skull are great objections.

The shoulders must be high, narrow, round, and well filled up. A hollow between shoulders is a very great objection. Some breeders do not object, although shoulders are square, if well filled up. All other points being equal, the Scotch Fancy with the high round shoulders will beat the square shoulder.

The breast must not protrude—it must not show, as we Scotch say: the Scotch Fancy must have a hollowed breast. The legs must be well jointed, and the bird must sit well down on its legs. By sitting well down it shows its front and side to more perfection. The thigh must be all covered; it must show nothing of its thigh. The Scotch Fancy that shows its thighs spoils the arch the bird must have. Wings long, and must be carried close to the body. This point adds greatly to the beauty of the Scotch Fancy Canary if the wings are carried close to the body.

The body must be long, or what we Scotch term "side," must have length of side. This is a great point in the Scotch Fancy, and one of the most

difficult points to breed in a Canary, this and back. The tail must be long, with a good swing; it must not have the appearance as if stuck on the bird, nor should it be too much swung under the pin, spoiling the circle which the Scotch Fancy Canary must have.

The Scotch Fancy Canary must be noble-looking and decided in his action, stand firm and well back on its legs, commanding in appearance must not use its wings in any way or look doubtful; must have a good, smart hop, and quick draw up, to make what should be one half-circle.  
—John Hamilton, in *Poultry, Eng.*

### Flight of Homing Pigeons.

The practice of flying homing or carrier pigeons, so popular in some countries, has never been properly taken hold of by the sporting fraternity of Canada, and for the last few years the little interest that was at one time displayed has to a great extent subsided. This decline of a legitimate sport is sincerely to be regretted, as its place has to a great extent been supplied by sporting of a description that, to say the least, has not an elevating tendency.

There are quite a number of homing pigeon fanciers in Toronto, and also in other cities and towns throughout the province, and some incipient races have at times been held, but no organized effort to speak of has as yet been made to bring this class of sport properly before the public. It is a pity that a provincial association could not be formed to place the sport on a proper footing. Races could then be held regularly, and if this delightful sport were better known it would certainly take the interest of many from other descriptions of sport that are degrading in tendency.

To initiate, if possible, a renaissance of the sport of flying pigeons long distances, *The News* some time ago entered into correspondence with James Fullerton, of Strathroy, editor of the *POULTRY REVIEW*, and one of the best breeders and trainers in the province, with the view of getting such details of the sport as would tend towards that object. The reply took a practical form, in the shape of the arrival at *The News* office, on Wednesday of a hamper containing twenty one splendid homing pigeons, with a request that they be liberated in order to test their speed.

The hamper contained birds of different colors, red checkers, blue-checkers, blues and silver duns. There was nothing particularly striking about the appearance of the birds, and to any but the pigeon fancier they would be put down as "common pigeons," but handling and close inspection show special characteristics. The skull is larger (this variety having the largest brain of any of the pigeon family), well arched, the eye keen and bright, and in grasping the body, one is surprised to find it so large and solid. The breast muscles that operate the wings are found to be of immense development, and the flight feathers are remarkably wide and strong. In training these birds they were liberated at Komoka, London, Ingersoll, Harrisburg and Oakville, before being sent here, and none of them had ever flown east before.