



Pair of Buff Orpington Cockerels, second prize at the Dairy Show, London, Eng., Dec, 1904.

## Canadian Poultry in England

### Fewer Canadian Turkeys—Chickens in Demand—Picking and Grading

London, Jan. 5, 1905.

A damp and mild Christmastide had a depressing effect upon the poultry market, while the terribly thick fogs which delayed steamers and trains had a disturbing influence upon business. Immense quantities of poultry did not reach London until too late for Christmas day and consequently although before that time there was a good clearance at satisfactory figures, at the end of the week there was a glut. Poultry reaches London from all parts and some idea of how the reputation of the now celebrated Norfolk turkey has grown in recent years for our Christmas fare can be gathered from the fact that one of the principle buyers purchased from different parts of Norfolk and Suffolk upwards of 4,000 birds. I am afraid, however, that there were a great many other birds, however, sold as "Norfolk" which had never been within miles of that county.

My intention, however, is to tell readers of *THE FARMING WORLD* how Canadian produce fared in the London markets, and for this purpose I approached a number of firms of high repute in the markets for their opinion upon the subject. The proprietor of a well known establishment in the Central Market said: "Turkeys from Canada this season have not been plentiful, owing to (I think) a better price being obtained in New York and the carriage would be less to deliver there than to London. However, there has been a fair supply at Liverpool, which have been sold there and at other north county towns. All these birds were shipped in the feathers and they would not have sold so well in London, as the market here this year was anything but good for the sale of turkeys. It is above three years since we had a big shipment of Canadian turkeys in London and then they met a bad market, which, I think, disheartened the people. There is a large business, however, to be done in them here, and I trust we shall see large consignments in the future."

Bearing upon the same point another salesman remarks: "A number of turkeys in feather were, I believe, sent to Liverpool and gave satisfaction. The consignments I have received from Canada for years past have been conspicuous by their absence, and considering the excess of numbers of turkeys from France, Austria and Italy, which arrived during the week preceding Christ-

mas, I am glad my Canadian friends did not send any as they would have undoubtedly lost money."

Now, as regards the trade in chickens, which is carried out on a much larger scale, the same authority says: "The chickens that have arrived up to the present have been sent in the feathers, and are not so saleable as those sent properly picked and graded, but it is early yet for chickens as they sell best in the spring, when our own stuff is short."

Another firm of salesmen whom I approached take a more sanguine view of the outlook, which they consider very satisfactory. They say: "Canadian chickens are well suited to the London market, providing they arrive during a scarcity of English, i.e., from the beginning of April to the end of July. They should be put up in boxes of dozens and graded according to weight from 24 lbs. per package, 30 lbs., 33 lbs., 36 lbs., 42 lbs., 48 lbs. and so on. The chickens must be clean, dry picked, i.e., not scalded, legs doubled up and frozen as soon as possible in the box and kept at a freezing temperature until delivered here. Care should be taken to well fatten the chickens before killing."

Another large salesman in the Central Poultry Market takes a similarly hopeful view to the above. He remarks: "Very large shipments of this class of poultry are made every spring, and of late years have met with general acceptance by the largest buyers, because the chickens are so graded as to weigh an average weight. Moreover, the chickens are packed by the most experienced hands, and last but not least, they are of choice quality. The trade for Canadian poultry is growing annually and prospects are most favorable for the coming spring."

The above criticisms upon the Canadian poultry which reaches the London market will, I trust, be of assistance to those readers of *THE FARMING WORLD* who go in for this profitable side line and enable them to compete still more keenly in our markets for their proper share of British trade.

A.W.S.

### Fowls for Egg Production

I propose in this article to deal with the above, and, no doubt, with the majority of poultry keepers plenty of eggs are desired rather than good table birds. I am sorry to say that as yet we have not a breed that will combine the two qualifications, though

we can get very near it, and it is not always the bird that lays the largest number of eggs in the year that brings in the most profit; when these eggs are laid must be taken into consideration, and in some markets the color of them. Of course, more depends on the strain of birds as to whether they will be good layers, but I will give a list of the best breeds for this purpose, for those who are thinking of purchasing a pen to breed from or eggs to hatch in the spring.

#### PURE BREDS

The Leghorn, Minorca, Houdan, Hamburg and Andalusian, will, I think lay more eggs in the year than any other breed; the eggs are white, but they are large, with the exception of the Hamburg and perhaps in some cases the Leghorn, the Minorca and Houdan laying the largest eggs of any breed of fowls and this point should be taken into consideration by all those who are going to invest in pure cock birds to improve the laying qualities of the birds they have. The Houdan is, perhaps, the best where a few nice table birds are wanted as well, as although in their pure state they are too small for this, yet crossed with some of the larger breeds they make nice, plump, early maturing birds. All the above are considered more of summer layers than winter, but if they are kept warm and comfortable in the winter they will render a good account of themselves at that season.

Of layers of brown eggs, I think we need only take into consideration the Orpington, Wyandotte, Langshan and Plymouth Rock. These are all good winter layers, but as a rule the eggs are not very large and they will not lay so many as the breeds first mentioned, as they will often want to set while the birds given in the first list are non-setters.

#### CROSS-BREDS

Taking into consideration the above facts, what occurs to us as being the best thing to do is to take a cock bird from the first list. This will give us quantity and size of eggs and non-setting habits, cross him with hens mentioned in the second list, who will give us color of egg and winter laying. By doing this we shall get grand winter layers of good sized brown or tinted eggs, who will not want to sit too often.

In my opinion the Houdan-Buff Orpington cross is the best, not better for eggs alone than the Minorca-Blegg Orpington, but the cockerels of the former will fetch very good prices killed for table at an early age, and they have white flesh and legs. I believe the Buff Orpington is the only bird with white legs that



A First Prize English Turkey Hen.