

duckwing Game and Dorking were fine birds, but were not the equals in plumpness of the Indian Game crosses. They were handicapped also for the American market by the color of the shanks and skin.

This exhibit was a complete demonstration of the very great value of the Indian Game to the market poultryman. All along poultry fanciers have been claiming this value for the Indian Game but their words have had less weight with the practical poultry raiser than they deserved. He has discounted the praise of the breed because he thought it came from interested motives. But this exhibit confirmed and enforced all that has been said in praise of the Indian Game as a market fowl and there was no chance to discount the specimens that were on exhibition. There was the ocular evidence— to be denied by no one except a blind man, and even he could feel the proof.

The raisers of market poultry in Canada and the United States, who do not avail themselves of the chance to use the Indian Game in the production of their poultry are not consulting their best interests. Every year fanciers have a few male birds, not good enough for their breeding because of the presence of some defect in color—chiefly the presence of white in the plumage—which they would be glad to sell for a few dollars each to a practical poultry raiser. These birds for his purpose are just as good as those which are more perfect in plumage, and as they can be bought at a low figure and will greatly improve the quality of the dressed poultry, they ought not to be killed as they often are, but should be greedily and quickly brought up for this very use. They probably could be purchased at from \$3 to \$5 each, and would pay for themselves over and over again in a single season. And I believe they would be quickly bought if the practical poultrymen could once see such an exhibit as the one I have alluded to, for this would certainly satisfy them that the investment would be highly profitable.

It would pay fanciers then, it seems to me, to encourage just such exhibits as this. They, as a body, are supposed to be interested only in the production of beauty, but I do not know a single fancier who is unwilling to widen the market for his stock and who would not rejoice to get a fair price for his culls if he knew they were to be used only for crossing and not be shown as specimens of his skill in breeding. I hope to see poultry associations pay more attention to this comparatively neglected branch of their exhibitions.

Mr. George Seeger, Jr., of Lafayette, Indiana, has been appointed Superintendent of the World's Fair Poultry Show. His duties commence on Sept. 1st, when he at once begins to get things in order for the Show. The names of the judges have not yet been announced.

POINTS ON BREEDING.

BY F. M. CLEMANS, JR.

A breeder who has made a speciality of a certain breed for a great many years and acquired a good trade in that breed is likely to think that variety the most popular. The fact is that years of advertising and active effort in breeding a certain fowl up to a high standard will bring a good trade in that breed whether it is the most popular or not. Thus, a certain Ohio breeder has bred black Javas and advertised them a great many years; while black Javas are one of the least popular of breeds, he has by making them a speciality acquired a good trade in them. Active patient effort in the direction of improving any breed in the American Standard is sure to be rewarded with success in due season. There is no breed in the Standard so little thought of and more seldom seen at poultry shows to-day than the once popular W. F. B. Spanish, yet I believe that a good breeder who will stick to them, cultivating the real points of beauty and merit which the breed possesses will not be disappointed in the results from a financial point of view. This breed like several other once popular breeds has lost its place through carelessness in keeping up vigor as well as fancy points. Fancy points are all right and the breeder who has no Standard or ideal in view will have little success but when he runs up against a fixed law of nature he is going to find that law a hard thing to kick against. Inbreeding is against nature's law and is sure to reduce size, vigor, richness of color, laying qualities and table qualities. I have seen a flock of thoroughbred brown Leghorns, once the equal of any of the breed, reduced to mere Bantams by this process and robbed of the sprightly vigor and prolific laying qualities which have made this breed the most popular of the non-setting class. It will work the same with any other breed. The inherent strength of a strain of fowls may stand up against the unnatural practice a few years but decline is sure. It is foolish for a breeder of fine fowls to have the idea that plumage, comb, lobes and other purely fancy points are going to sell his stock or make the winners in the absence of size and vigor. I have noticed that a large vigorous bird will take the prize over a small weak specimen nine times in ten even if the latter be the finest in purely fancy points. Purchasers of fowls will look over minor defects in the presence of perfection in size, form and vigor.