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AJAX AND MATES.

THE CANADIAN POULTRY REVIEW

DEVOTED TO POULTRY, IN ALL ITS BRANCHES

PUBLISHED BY H. B. DONOVAN.

VOL. XIII.

58 BAY STREET, TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1890.

No. 9.

LIST OF THE PRINCIPAL FAIRS TO BE HELD IN CANADA IN 1890.

Canada's Great Industrial Fair, Toronto, Sept. 8th to 20th, H. J. Hill, Sec'y, Toronto.
Midland Central Fair, Kingston, Sept 1st to 6th, R. Meek, Sec'y, Kingston.

Eastern Townships Agricultural Association, Sherbrooke, Sept. 2nd to 4th, H. R. Fraser, Sherbrooke, P.Q.

Southern Fair, Brantford, Sept. 9th to 11th, R. M. Wilson, Brantford.

Northwestern Exhibition, Goderich, Sept. 15th to 17th, James Mitchell, Sec'y, Goderich.

Southern Counties Fair, St. Thomas, Sept. 16 to 18th, John A. Kains, Sec'y, St. Thomas.

Western Fair, London, Sept. 18th to 27th, Thos. A. Browne, Sec'y, London.

Great Central Fair, Hamilton, Sept. 22nd to 26th, C. R. Smith, Sec'y, Hamilton.

Central Canada Exhibition, Ottawa, Sept. 22nd to 27th, Alfred Geddes, Sec'y, Ottawa.

Wellesley and North East Hope, Wellesley, 23rd and 24th, George Bellinger, Sec'y, Wellesley.

South Grey Exhibition, Durham, 23rd and 24th, A. McKenzie, Sec'y, Durham.

Ontario and Durham Exhibition Association, Whitby, Sept. 23rd to 25th, W. R. Howse, Sec'y, Whitby.

South Lanark Agricultural Society, Perth, Sept. 23rd to 25th, J. G. Campbell, Sec'y, Perth.

Bay of Quinte District, Belleville, Sept. 23rd to 26th, B. Mallory, Sec'y, Frankford.

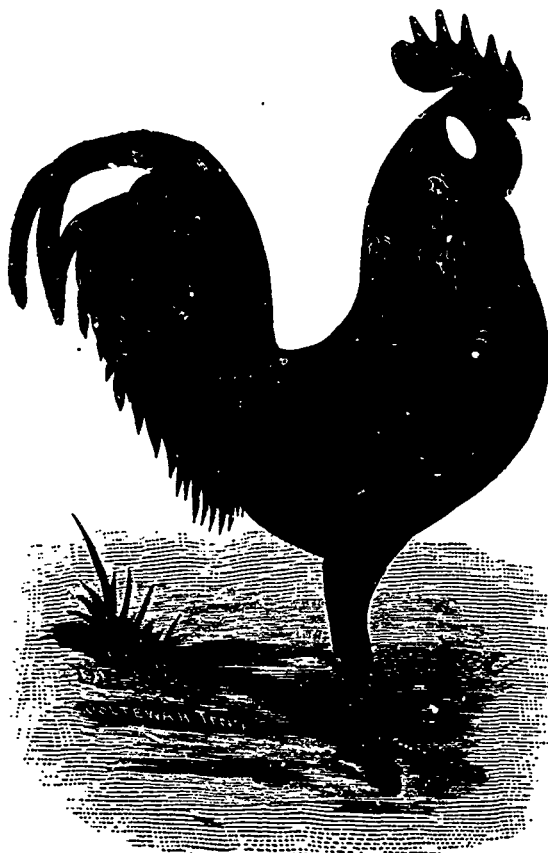
Central Exhibition, Peterboro', 24th to 26th, Wm. Collins, Sec'y, Peterboro'.

Centre Bruce Exhibition, Paisley, Sept. 24th to 26th, S. Ballachley, Sec'y, Paisley.

Canada's International Exhibition, St. John N.B., Sept. 24th to Oct. 4th, Ira Cornwall, Sec'y, St. John, N.B.

Central Exhibition, Guelph, Sept. 25th and 26th, Wm. Laidlaw, Sec'y, Guelph.

South Renfrew Exhibition, Renfrew, Sept. 25th and 26th, Robt. McLaren, Sec'y, Renfrew.



BROWN LEGHORN COCKEREL

West Durham and Darlington Union, Bowmanville, Sept. 25th and 26th, R. Windatt, Sec'y, Bowmanville.

Central Fair, Cannington, Sept. 26th and 27th, R. A. Sinclair, Sec'y, Cannington.

Lincoln County Union, St. Catharines, Sept. 29th to Oct. 1st, Albert Pay, Sec'y, St. Catharines.

Central Agricultural Society, Walter's Falls, Sept. 30th and Oct. 1st, Geo. B. Holmes, Sec'y, Walter's Falls.

County of Haldimand Agricultural Society

Cayuga, Sept. 30th and Oct. 1st, J. W. Shepard, Sec'y, Cayuga.

North Riding of Oxford, Woodstock, Sept. 30th and Oct. 1st, W. P. McClure, Sec'y, Woodstock.

County Peel Agricultural Society, Brampton, Sept. 30th and Oct. 1st, Henry Roberts, Sec'y, Brampton.

Mornington Agricultural Exhibition, Milverton, Sept. 30th and Oct. 1st, Ernest Gattung, Sec'y, Milverton.

Lindsay Central Fair, Lindsay, Sept. 30th

to Oct. 2nd, James Keith, Sec'y, Lindsay.

Northern Exhibition, Walkerton, Sept. 30th to Oct. 3rd, Jacob Legmiller, Sec'y, Walkerton.

North Lanark Fair, Almonte, Sept. 30th to Oct. 3rd, Wm. P. McEwen, Sec'y, Almonte.

Great Northern Exhibition Association, Collingwood, Sept. 30th to Oct. 3rd, J. W. Archer, Sec'y, Collingwood.

South Oxford Exhibition, Norwich, Oct. 1st and 2nd, Alex. McFarlane, Sec'y, Otterville. Scarborough Agricultural Society, Woburn, Oct. 2nd, Alex. McCowan, Sec'y, Danforth.

Pensinular Fair, Chatham, Oct. 1st to 3rd, W. G. Merrett, Sec'y, Chatham.

West Monck Agricultural Society, Dunnville, Oct. 2nd and 3rd, J. H. Smith, Sec'y, Dunnville.

North Perth Agricultural Society, Stratford, Oct. 2nd and 3rd, John Brown, Sec'y, Stratford.

North Renfrew Agricultural Society, Beachburg, Oct. 2nd and 3rd, John Brown, Sec'y, Beachburg.

South Grimsby Agricultural Society, Smithville, Oct. 6th and 7th, W. H. Morgan, Sec'y, Smithville.

North Brant Agricultural Society, Paris, Oct. 7th and 8th, James O'Neil, Sec'y, Paris.

Howard Branch Agricultural Society, Ridgeway, Oct. 7th to 9th, D. Cochrane, Sec'y, Ridgeway.

East York Agricultural Society, Markham, Oct. 8th to 10th, James J. Baker, Sec'y, Markham.

Central Wellington, Elora, Oct. 9th and 10th, John Mair, Sec'y, Elora.

Norfolk Union Fair, Simcoe, Oct. 14th and 15th, J. Thos. Murphy, Sec'y, Simcoe.

West York and Vaughan Agricultural Society, Woodbridge, Oct. 21st and 22nd, Thos. T. Wallace, Sec'y, Woodbridge.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

MR. JNO. GRAY,

SECRETARY of the East York Poultry Association is, we are pleased to notice, almost quite recovered from his recent illness and is able to attend to business again.

MR. R. H. TRIMBLE

expects to move to Toronto to reside some time this month.

MORE DUCKS.

We notice in an English exchange that Mr. D. Bragg has shipped Mr. H. H. Wallace, Woodstock, another consignment of Ducks. They consist of the first prize Aylsbury Duckling at Liverpool last year, and a drake and duck of the present year. The *Fanciers' Gazette* says, "they have all splendid long heads and bills, the latter as beautiful and delicate in tint as a maiden's blush."

MR. A. J. GORDON,

St. Jerome, Que., intends crossing the pond on a visit to England this fall. No doubt he will not come back empty handed.

MESSRS. MILES AND ARTHURS,
TORONTO,

have received from Mr. Ernest Strike, England, who recently paid a visit to Canada, twelve Indian Games which are to be shown at the Industrial this month.

MR. C. J. DANIELS, TORONTO,

has also received a trio of Indian Games and one Red Cap hen per S.S. Oregon, not looking much the worse for their long journey. They were fifteen days on the way.

THE FOLLOWING LEGEND

was attached to their coop :

Instructions for Feeding us.

We need a handful of grain each, night and morning, also a constant supply of fresh water.

Lean meat and onions are good for us every alternate day.

We are shy with strangers, so please don't pull us about.

Wind and rain make us unhappy.

Yours in dumbness.

INDIAN GAMES.

MR. WM. MCLLOUD, LUCAN,

intends exhibiting at Detroit, and

MR. WM. MCNEILL, LONDON,

purposes taking nearly two hundred birds.

MR. MCNEILL,

has a silver-pencilled Hamburg pullet, hatched on April 15th, which recently stole a nest away, and when noticed cackling the nest was found with three eggs in it. This was on July 27th.

GEO. HOPE & SONS, TORONTO,

proprietors of the Native and Foreign Bird Store, have moved from Queen Street East to Queen Street West, where they are hopeful (Wave !) of doing an increased business. Messrs. Hope & Sons purpose having a stand in the main building at the Industrial Exhibition, and will be pleased to see anyone in need of birds or appliances in their line.

POULTRY

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

THE frontispiece this month shows the brown Leghorn cock Ajax and mates, winners of first and specials at the Mammoth Buffalo Poultry Exhibition, scoring 96, 96, 95¾, 95¼ and 95, owned by J. Forsyth, Riverside Poultry Farm, Owego, Tioga Co., N.Y.

The brown Leghorn cockerel is owned by Mr. D. L. Cate, Ooltewati, Tenn., and won first and specials at the last New Orleans, La. show, scoring 96.

DOMINIKES, ETC.

BY BLACK WYANDOT.

MUCH as we may feel disposed to despise the old mongrels in this advanced day of pure breeds, it is indisputable that there are among them many extraordinary specimens as layers, table fowls, sitters and mothers.

It is reasonable to suppose that from superior specimens of "hawk-colored" mongrels, the American Dominique was originated and gradually improved.

They are probably the oldest purely American breed. Originating in New England it is not strange that they possess great points of practical utility rather than more purely fancy points. They can hardly be called a fancy fowl, rather they are the embodiment of the best qualities that characterized the old-fashioned mongrel fowls that were once the source from which the New England farmer's wife extracted her much-needed "pin money."

Although not the most beautiful of fowls, their grayish-white plumage with blue-black barrings is by no means homely, and the bright red, rather large rose combs and wattles, bright yellow shanks and sprightly carriage are pleasing to the eye. The hens (averaging about six pounds) are of the very best size to make satisfactory sitters and mothers, not being so likely to break eggs or kill chicks by awkwardness as weightier hens are. They equal any American breed for the table and as layers of good sized brownish colored eggs. To the Dominique blood in their make-up the Plymouth Rocks probably owe not only their plumage but many of the splendid traits that make them favorites.

* * *

Of course the egg-trade is a nuisance, we are assured of that each summer by dissatisfied buyers and sellers, but as long as somebody sells eggs all must sell eggs or be out of the swim.

The buyer will have a bad hatch and "cuss" orally and by mail, and the seller finds his fine eggs gone for a little more than the expenses of the season and few chicks for the fall trade. The purchaser who thinks buying eggs the cheapest way to get a start is deluded. Buy chicks or fowl and you will know what you are getting for your cash.

* * *

Some writers question what they are pleased to call the "sport theory." The existence of sports is a well-proven fact and well-known to breeders of experience. There is no disputing the fact that white Wyandots, white Plymouth Rocks, black Wyandots, white Holland Turkeys, etc., came from sports. I have seen these sport chicks quite often from parentage of undoubted purity. This year I have noticed two pure white chicks from a pen of pure black Wyandots, and all other chicks from the yard are solid black.

* * *

The Plymouth Rock illustrations we see, in which the male and female match so perfectly in shade of plumage are often misleading to the beginner. Nature seems to be very persistent in her intention that the males shall be a distinct shade or two lighter in color than the females. Take a flock of Plymouth Rock chicks of gilt-edge breeding and a large percentage of pullets will be much darker than the males, even at this late day in Plymouth Rock culture. Extreme matings do not overcome this fault. Are the *Standard*-makers wrong in demanding matched plumage?

RED CAPS.

BY MR. C. J. DANIELS, TORONTO.

I READ with interest Mr. Wraggs, (England), article on Red Caps and thought it would interest your readers to have a Canuck's experience with them. I have kept them three years and find them what some people term them, *viz.*, "everlasting layers." I have been keeping a record of the laying of four pullets hatched early in June, 1889, but can only give you the result for seven months as I shall be sending some of them to the show room next month.

Commenced laying Jan. 15th, eggs in Jan. 16, Feb. 11, March 35, April 81, May 102, June 95, July 96, and up to Aug 15th 48 making a total of 484, I am still getting 3 and 4 eggs per day. The old dage is don't count your chickens before they are hatched and it may be some of your readers will think the same when I say I think I'm safe in saying these birds will lay at least 60 eggs per month in the remaining five months which would make a total of 784 eggs, or just about 200 eggs for each bird. Would say these birds have had no extra feed or care but have been used just the same as the rest of the stock.

I have raised thirty chicks out of which I have twenty-nine. I was not able to rise many this year as I was late in getting back from England and I have no faith in late hatches. I find April and May hatches do the best.

Some people object to Red Caps on account of their large combs, thinking they will not stand our cold winters, my experience with them is I have kept Minorcas, Scotch Greys and Red Caps all in one house, the Minorcas and Scotch Greys combs were badly frozen but the Red Caps were not touched.

The Red Cap as Mr. Wragg says,

does best on a dry soil, but I think this applies to all other breeds as well Red Caps.

MR. SMELT'S SCORE CARD.

WITH your permission I ask a little space in your columns in explanation of score card which you have so kindly inserted in REVIEW. It is scarcely necessary for me to tell your readers that the old style score card has proved a failure as every exhibitor knows the trouble connected with it.

I am not surprised to see that some of the Associations are going back to the old style of judging, which by the way is a step in the wrong direction. Now under the old style of cards it is impossible to run a show in a business-like manner. Perhaps the worst grievance with exhibitors has been the length of time taken to get the cards on the coops. I know of instances where fanciers have travelled long distances to shows where celebrated judges were engaged, in order to gain all the information possible, only to go home in disgust after waiting until the last day of the show without seeing a card on the coops. The score card is the greatest argument in favor of the scoring system, and should be the best educator to young and old alike, but under the present system of doing things, all the good which might be gained at a show is entirely lost. I know the difficulty is hard to overcome under the present style of cards, having held a secretaryship for several years I speak from experience in this matter, as in cases where the cards are put on, the birds pick them in pieces, and if the cuts are picked off it is impossible to make a duplicate.

After giving this matter a good deal of thought, I have prepared this card and holder for the same, which if used

EXHIBITION OF

..... Society.

Breed.....

Sex.....

Class..... Entry..... Band.....

EXHIBITION OF

..... Society.

Breed.....

Sex.....

Class..... Entry..... Band.....

Exhibitor.....

Residence.....

	SHAPE	COLOR	TOTAL	Judge
Symmetry				
Size or Weight				
Condition				
Head				
Comb				
Crest				
Wattles & Lobes.....				
Beard				
Neck				
Back				
Breast.....				
Body				
Wings				
Tail.....				
Legs and Feet				
	Defects...			
Weight..... lbs.	Score.....		Coop.....	

Mr. Smelt's Scoring Card.

properly, will overcome all difficulty, and make it impossible for any mistakes to be made. The only difference in expense will be the first cost of the holders, which are made of tin, and cards can be had at trifling cost after the holders are procured, which will last for years. The expense will be less than it is now under the old style, as this card not only answers for the score card but also for the entry ticket and the prize card. Under the present style we have so many cards and tickets on a coop that it is almost impossible to see what is inside, but with this system, one card is all that is required for each bird. One great advantage is that these cards must be on the coops before the judging can be commenced.

FIRST PRIZE

Exhibitor _____

Residence _____

My plan is this, when a secretary receives the entries he makes out the score card and also the stub on top, which is torn off for the exhibitor and answers in place of the entry ticket which he must hold as a check until the show is over. Before the show opens the score cards are put in the holders and hung on the coops, and when the birds arrive, all the exhibitor has to do is to find the corresponding card to his tag and there coop his birds so there can be no choice of coops for anyone. Then when the judge goes to work his assistant has no numbers to copy down, but simply to lift off the holder with card in and mark the outs in ink, and when done with a bird, hang up again. Then let the secretary follow after him with a small portable desk which he can run along from coop to coop and foot up cards and mark

scores in entry book, and after finding the winners in a class he can put on the prize card which is gummed on the space left on score card to receive it, and birds not winning prizes can have exhibitor's name, etc., on same space and the whole thing is done in half the time and no danger of any mistakes being made, as the secretary is the only party who has anything to do with the numbers. Now in order to carry out my idea fully, no judge should be allowed to change the scores after being once made. In case of ties the secretary may call the judge to decide which he prefers for the prizes, but in no case should the scores be changed if birds are scored right; in the first place it is impossible to change it with justice to all. I may just say that my object in getting up this card is only to put the scoring system on a better footing and not for any financial benefit, as I propose to furnish them at the lowest possible cost. Thanking you, Mr. Editor for the space I have taken.

THOS. H. SMELT.

Toronto.

THE TREATMENT OF FOWLS WHILST MOULTING.

Fowls.

POULTRY breeders may be roughly divided into two camps, namely, the natural and artificial. The first say "Give us sound grain, pure water, and decent houses, and a fig for your patent meals and medicines." The second love to use the wonderful advertised foods, which are warranted to bring about miracles in the matter of egg production. They have cupboards containing roup pills and revivers, conditioners and invigorators, and all the physics in the poultry pharmacopæia. Between these two extremes, I suppose the happy

mean is somewhere reached. Where unlimited space is at command, my sympathies are all with the so-called followers of nature, and I quite agree that in such cases all soft foods may be safely dispensed with, and that the only physic necessary is the poulturer's knife. But the moment a number of fowls are taken from their natural environment, and enclosed within the limits of a pen of any kind, it becomes the duty of their owner to supply as far as may be, that which is lacking for their well-being. Farm house poultry, and others which like them rejoice in untrammelled freedom, usually come through the moult quickly and safely enough; but the fancier's, and especially the exhibitor's birds, frequently encounter the ordeal in the state of health which quite unfits them to cope with the fresh drain upon their systems unassisted. I have kept fowls for thirty years, and I am usually by no means in want of a trumpeter, yet I will at the outset confess that I have still very much to learn about the very subject upon which I am presuming to write. I have, however, always found that perfect quiet, liberal feeding, and warmth, all conduce greatly to the object in view. The earlier fowls are hatched, the earlier they go into moult, in all the subsequent, or at all events, all the useful subsequent years of their lives, and as the warmer the weather the easier the process, herein is furnished another strong argument in favor of early hatching. I am assured that bad moulting is often the result of over exhibiting, and will venture to advise the young fancier to avoid the late summer shows, even if practically certain of success. As soon as breeding operations are concluded, let him if possible, isolate his male birds out of sight, and if possible out of hearing of all other members of his flock. Moulting houses need not be large, but they must be warm and dry, and are best entirely covered in; as regards the run, during

moult the digestive organs are less active, and the food should mainly consist of ground corn or meal, with an ample supply of vegetables. I am aware that animal food is condemned by some authorities as harmful to moulting birds, but I always give at such times fresh bones crushed with a Norcombe smasher, and believe they are highly beneficial. A little iron should always be given in the water, as not only is it useful as a tonic, but the fowls in their feverish state are apt to drink to excess, and are prevented doing so by the fluid not being altogether to their taste. I doubt whether the iron tonic can be administered in a better manner than by placing in the drinking vessel the old-fashioned rusty nail or other piece of old iron. Cocks thus treated usually assume their new winter suits quickly, almost imperceptibly, so that by the middle of November they are quite fit for breeding purposes, and in condition to beget January chickens; later in the season, I have seldom found over-yearred birds reliable, and when the north-easters are blowing only early-hatched cockerels are to be depended upon. As regards hens, I have found the chief difficulty with the non sitting and extra good laying breeds. A strain of black Hamburgs I had some years ago were in the habit of practically laying themselves to death in the late autumn, continuing to produce eggs in plenty until they were as bare of feathers as a six weeks' Cochin chicken, often never recovering the double drain upon their systems; my Hamburgs were kept solely for laying purposes. But were I again so situated with valuable birds I should not hesitate to administer mild doses of calomel, with the view to stop the production of eggs. With sitting breeds a safe and easy method of procedure readily suggests itself. As the summer wanes such birds lay fewer eggs in each batch before becoming desirous to sit; in July

it is well to gratify their instincts so far as to give them some half-a dozen chalk eggs. I allow my own Malays to occupy their nests for six or more weeks, or until they tire of the task. Each morning they come off to feed, and each afternoon they are taken off and shut off until roosting time, they thus obtain enough exercise to prevent cramp, and are a second time fed liberally. If this plan is followed the reader must be careful to see that his nests are of such a size as to obviate the possibility of injury to the new feathers of his stock, their tails being especially liable to chafing; personally, I use roomy packing cases. I have left till the last, perhaps, the very point upon which your readers will be most anxious for information, namely, the treatment of bad or difficult moulting. Alas! I can boast of no success in such cases. My own home-bred stock, I am thankful to say, have provided me with no experience of the kind, but I have several times purchased or had given me fowls which had admittedly been carelessly treated by their late owners, but which were well worth the trouble of moulting out, if it could be accomplished successfully. Last summer, for instance, a friend sent me a grand pair of Malays just going into moult and generally seedy. The cock was in poor condition; I gave him cod-liver oil, and whenever he went off his feed a few of Jenkinson's revivers. Sometimes for a few weeks he would chip up, and once he reached very fair condition as regards flesh, but made hardly any progress with his new feathers until December, then they suddenly started, and by the first of March he was clean moulted and in fine feather, but as his feathers grew his general health declined, and although he ate regularly and ravenously he wasted to a mere bag of bones, and shortly went over to the majority. The hen moulted her wing and tail feathers capitally, also a portion of her body

feathers, but the larger portion of the latter refused to leave the quills, and although her general health up to April was uniformly good, at that period she suddenly died. So I fear, Mr. Editor, the verdict upon this composition will take the form of a well known query, as to the blind leader of the blind.

Bantam Department

PEKIN BANTAMS.

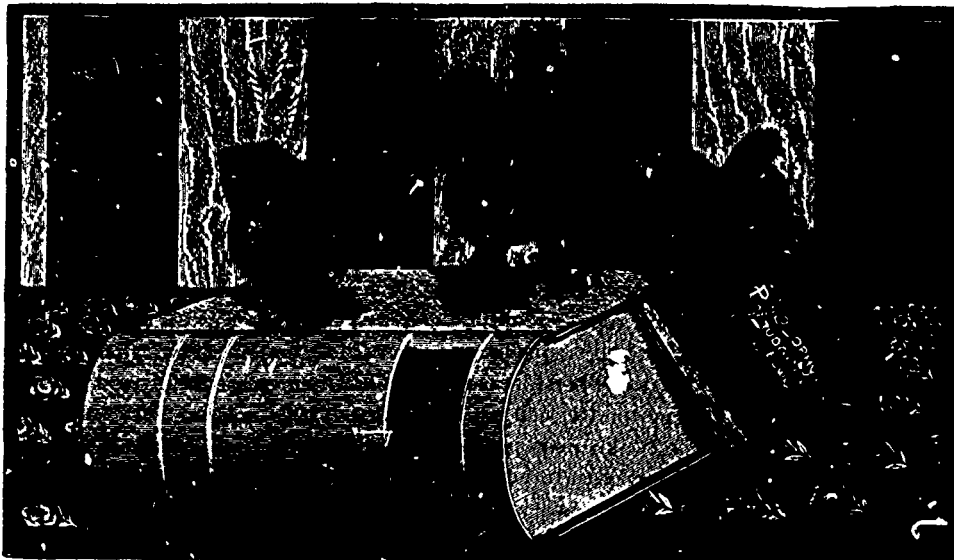
THIS month we give our readers one of Lees nicest engravings and one of the best Bantam cuts we have ever seen. Too much cannot be said in favor of this popular variety of Bantam, which, since its introduction into Europe and America has steadily grown in popular favor.

Our engraving depicts "Old Gold" and mates and are owned by Mr. E. K. Austin, Flatbush, N.Y., and won highest honors at the last New York show. "Old Gold" has won 15 firsts and has never been beaten.

THE GOLDEN SEBRIGHT BANTAM.

BY H. S. BARCOCK, PROVIDENCE, R. I.

AT this day it is nearly or quite impossible to say anything new about the Golden Sebright Bantam. Its history has been so often recorded, its figure and marking described, and its beauty and excellence lauded, that to write about it seems like threshing over old straw which has been so often threshed that only chaff and broken stems remains. And yet this Bantam continues a delight to the fancier, a marvel to the beginner and a triumph to the original.



OLD GOLD AND MATES.

Although this Bantam has been bred for nearly a century—I believe the date of its origin is given as about 1800—the difficulty in producing first-class specimens has not been wholly overcome. There may be breeds equally difficult to produce in perfection, but there certainly are few that offer more obstacles to complete success. To obtain a perfect figure, good comb, proper earlobes, rich ground color, accurate markings, and freedom from false color, is a task that few breeders have performed to their own satisfaction.

The ground color, which should be a rich yellow, is seldom deep enough. Fairly good color is obtained by the best breeders, but really rich gold is seldom seen in the exhibition pen, where the best birds presumably are found. I know that we often hear poultry men boast of the birds left at home which are vastly better than those in the show, but such boasts seldom pay for a trip to the yards of the boaster.

The earlobes are described as white, and yet I have still to see a Golden

Sebright with a white earlobe. I have seen them somewhat whitened, with more or less, usually less, blueish enamel, but the majority are red, and it seems to me that it would have been better to have described them as red, and thus have made a natural, rather than have described them as white and thus have made an impossible *Standard*. However, the *Standard* says white, and the best we can do is to follow it and get them as white as possible.

The combs are difficult to obtain as one would like them. The points often turn down, and sometimes are lacking, the comb usually grows too large, and is very frequently hollow in front. A perfect comb is about as red as a perfect earlobe, which is equivalent to saying that it does not exist. This remark is specially applicable to the males.

The lacings, which should extend clear around the nib of the feather, have an inconvenient method of stopping short after they have made a turn about the end of the web. They are more frequently crescentic spangles than proper lacings, especially if they

are as narrow as they should be. Broad lacings will extend around the feather, but they also largely conceal the ground color, and give the bird a very dark and blotchy appearance. To obtain a narrow, intensely black lacing, which extends clear around the web of the feather, is no mean triumph in breeding.

The centres of the feathers, that is the ground color, should be clear, but it is very frequently mixed with black, especially in the tail feathers and the large feathers of the wings, and when it is not intermixed with black it is frequently faded out into white, a fault much more serious both in a breeding and an exhibition bird. White feathers will come though they are not wanted, but white feathers are a serious defect.

Then the male birds sometimes develop a full Hamburg tail, furnished with long sickles and curved correctly, pretty birds considered in themselves, but of course disqualified as Sebrights. But more frequently they develop full flowing hackles and pronounced saddle feathers, in the very best strains.

If these hackles flow over the shoulders the birds are disqualified by the American *Standard*.

The above are some of the difficulties with which a Sebright fancier has to contend. But the great beauty of the bird, its exquisite coloring and fascinating figure, its proud and bump-tious manners, and its really valuable qualities, have served to keep it well towards the front among popular Bantams. The simple fact is that even an inferior specimen is a handsome bird, for many of its faults are hidden beneath a lovely surface, and it is able to charm the uncritical spectator while it annoys the particular fancier. In looking at such specimens, it does not pay to know too much.

"Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise," and the fancier is often too wise for his own comfort.

DUCKWING LEGHORNS.

THE idea of bringing out the duckwing Leghorn suggested itself in the year 1882, whilst engaged in breeding the pyle Leghorn, which has since become so famous, and held in high estimation amongst those who seek for beauty. During this and the following year I noticed among the pullets several with good head-points, nice brown, or salmon breast, and beautiful yellow legs; but the general body-color was Andalusian or plain slate color, whilst the under parts were of an ashen grey. Seeing they carried the Leghorn properties in every way save color, I felt it was a pity to kill them, and as something approaching the duckwing color was plainly visible, I made up my mind to endeavour to improve on it, and, if possible, add another variety to the most popular family of domestic poultry in the known world, viz, the Leg-

horn, and, if successful, it should be the duckwing Leghorn.

Believing nothing impossible, and being very enthusiastic in matters appertaining to poultry-breeding, I collected the likely material and commenced with a will; but, as I expected, it was some time before the blood would nick properly—in fact, years. Still, as the pyles were settling down to color, type, and character year by year, I thought duckwings must do the same. Therefore things went hand-in-hand pretty well as they started, one breed keeping just about a generation ahead of the other till 1886, the advent of the pyles, when a few likely looking specimens appeared that bid fair to stamp the duckwings as a variety. A further improvement was made in 1887, when a valuable acquisition came to hand from an unexpected quarter. During the summer of that year, Mr. Chick, of Dorchester, hearing of my success with the pyles, very kindly sent a couple of cockerels (sports from his brown Leghorns), thinking they would help me in my labor (one of them unfortunately died a few weeks after); this gave me a change of blood which proved most beneficial. The next year I obtained a great increase in size and colour, but a loss in type. Still, I had better opportunities of selection, having a good few to choose from. But the greatest difficulty all through has been to get good breast-colouring on the pullets. The hackle and steel-grey markings will come fairly well. On the part of the cockerels the beautiful black breast has become quite a feature. This I attribute to not insisting on a pure silvery top colour. Personally, I prefer a golden tinge, as it is less affected by the sun, and, to my mind, sets the bird off better.

That they are destined to become extremely popular, is a foregone conclusion if one may judge by the numerous inquiries from abroad and at home

both for birds and eggs, but as the number of really good specimens must of necessity be comparatively few for years, we are likely to hear of good and substantial prices being offered, even more so than during the past year or two. Sums realized by individual specimens have already topped those paid for any other variety of Leghorn, and I believe the same may be said as regards eggs. This in itself is abundant proof that they have a brilliant career in the future, and are seemingly running neck and neck with the pyles, both being exquisitely beautiful, and as such, plumage must count first. Again, another point (and not a minor one either), in their favor, they will stand exhibiting longer than the other varieties, even for two or three years, they can be shown with advantage. Although I do not mention it as a challenge, yet I believe the cockerel in the illustration made as good, or perhaps a better, record than any previous Leghorn cock in one year, taking age into consideration. When about six months old he had won 2nd Poultry Club Show; 1st Windsor; 1st Dairy; 1st and Special Southampton; 1st Crystal Palace, etc. After he won at Southampton, £20 was offered for him by telegram, but the offer was declined with thanks, after which he passed into the hands of Mr. W. Hinson, St. Ives. Although the originator of this variety (which of course I am very proud of), I have no wish to extol their merits or beauty beyond that of the opinion of the public—I mean the poultry loving public, poultry breeders, and poultry judges. As good wine needs no bush, so if their position be won by themselves, by virtue of their excellence whether for laying qualities, table purposes, or beauty, it will be on a much firmer foundation, than if got by other means. The colour, generally, is one that we are already familiar with, therefore needs

but little describing. It is as its name would imply, an imitation of the duck-wing Game, both for cocks and hens, but being of full and flowing plumage it is more profuse, and in my humble opinion constitutes them a much handsomer variety; and as a proof of their popularity and merits in the show pen, I may mention that the following are some of the prizes won by them when in competition with other varieties: Dairy Show, two 1sts and 3rd; Crystal Palace, 1st and 2nd; Leghorn Club Show, 2nd and 3rd; Windsor, 1st, 2nd and 3rd; Antwerp, 1st and 2nd; Southampton, 1st and Special; Derby, 2nd Bagshot, two 1st and Special, etc., etc. Also seeing that such sums as £20, £10 10s., £5 5s., etc., have been realized for individual birds, and two guineas a dozen for eggs of this breed, is a substantial proof of the firm hold they have taken on the fancy.

—In *Fowls*.

GEORGE PAYNE.

A FEW POULTRY YARD OBSERVATIONS.

Feathered World.

BEING a keen poultry fancier, and very fond of my poultry, I spend all my spare time among them, and the following are a few of my observations, which may interest some of your numerous readers.

Poisonous Plants.—In my poultry run there are a great number of plants of Foxglove (*Digitalis purpuria*) and Lily of the Valley (*Convallaria majalis*) and several times I have noticed some of my fowls picking the leaves. Now I know that these are both poisonous plants but I cannot say I have seen any bad effects afterwards: I should like to have Dr. Green's or some of your medical readers opinion of their effects on poultry, as I am afraid that this constantly picking,

even a little of them, may by and by do the fowls some constitutional injury.

Malformed Eggs.—One of my hens, which has been ailing for some time, laid a very curiously shaped egg. It was of ordinary size, weighing $2\frac{1}{2}$ ozs., with the small end elongated into a tube of about half an inch, where it gradually expanded into another small egg. The white continued through the tube into the smaller one, but it had no yoke. The shell was only slightly calcified.

Ten Days' Fast.—I missed one of my Bantam hens, and after diligent search I concluded that I had had a visit from "pussy," for Peggy was nowhere to be found. Exactly ten days after, thinking I heard the sound of life in one of my unused out-houses I pushed open the door, when who should appear but lost Peggy. Poor lass, she seemed very pleased to see me. Hunger seemed to give her little concern, but a little discretion had to be exercised in the quantity of water she got, else she would have taken too much. She had been in search of a nest, and pushed open the door which had swung back, thus making her a prisoner. Beside her I found five eggs, one of the usual size, then the others gradually became smaller, and the smallest one was not larger than a blackbird's.

Carnivorous Hen.—I was very much surprised, indeed, I might almost say disgusted, to find that one of my hens had quite an appetite for mice. One day a mouse was killed and thrown out, when it was at once picked up by Miss Cochin, given a good shake, and finally swallowed *holus bolus*. I was to be still more surprised, however, for soon afterwards, when I was shifting, the same hen along with some chickens, I upset a box, out of which jumped a mouse, one of your poor church ones, but a fine big fat one,

evidently having enjoyed a fair share of the good things intended for the brood. Mother hen, in regular terrier fashion, followed it up, seized it by the neck, and after treating it to several smart strokes on the ground, swallowed it head first, evidently thinking it quite a dainty bit. So large was the mouse that it was several minutes before its tail disappeared down her throat.

Sisterly Love.—It is not every day that you can see such a pair of friendly mothers as I have at present. I transferred two hens, along with their broods, from the nest boxes, to a large shed, and was very much astonished next morning to find them comfortably nestled together, quite friendly, and showing none of that jealous anger which is common under like circumstances. This was all the more unnatural as the hens had never seen each other before. It is noteworthy that on the cluck, cluck of the mothers each chicken would at once find its own mother, as if they knew their mother's voices, but after some time they began to get less particular.

Benefits of a Good Mother.—We hear a great deal nowadays about breeding for size? when to feed, how often, and what with; but I am convinced that a good mother has quite as much to do with size of chickens as feeding, cleanliness, parentage, &c. For example. On February 15th and 19th I had two hens hatch each five chickens from the same pen of Cochins. No. 1 hen was an average good mother, but No. 2 quite a typical one, almost continually on the move, treating her chickens to all the tit bits, while she ate very sparingly. The following was the result on July 1st:—

No. 1, largest 5 lb., smallest 4 lb., average 4 lb. 10 oz.

No. 2, largest 7 lb., smallest 5 lb., average 5 lb. 12 oz.

Now I treated these exactly alike in every respect, and can only attribute

the difference in size to the extra good mother.

Hatching Long Kept Eggs.—From time to time I have done a little in trying to find out how long eggs may be kept and still hatch an average percentage of chickens. I may say that I believe a great deal depends on the health and vigour of the fowls from which the eggs are taken. I had six eggs from a pen of Bantams, cock and hen—the last one laid on March 4th—put carefully apart in a cool place till April 17th, being six weeks and two days, when I sat them. On the twenty-second day, three chickens hatched, two dead in shell, one clear. I might have saved the two by dipping them as they were fully developed, but wanted to see the result without interfering with them in any way. This is the longest time I have kept eggs and still had a fair hatch. I am experimenting with preserved eggs, but so far with little success.

Fertile Eggs—I have taken particular note of this, and have at last come to the conclusion that the greatest enemy to fertile eggs is too fat fowls. I do not believe that the number of hens with the cock has nearly so much to do with this as some people think. I have had equally good results with one hen as a dozen to the cock, provided, of course, they are in as good breeding order. My great cure for this disease is small doses of sulphate of magnesia (Epsom salts), and I may honestly say I have never found it fail. A year or two ago a friend of mine was heart-broken, not having a percentage of three chickens. I called on him one day, and after hearing his lament, I recommended the salts, and in a remarkably short time he had a good percentage. In the heavier breeds I have always found it advisable not to breed the cock after the second year. To all poultry breeders I would say,

beware of superfluous fat in your fowls, and, if it does accumulate, don't forget
MAGNES. SULPH.

WHITE POULTRY.

HOW TO KEEP AND PREPARE THEM
FOR EXHIBITION.

(Continued.)

A GAIN, when the artichokes or sunflowers, etc., cannot be got, the next best substitute that we know of is to plant the runs with doughs of spruce fir. These soon turn brown, we know, but they hold their spines a long time, and really afford capital shade. When the birds have got their growth, then sheds with wire fronts, or covered in with the newly invented wire-woven roofing gauze can be used, and the birds, with good food, should do well; but while they are growing, until they obtain their matured plumage, we cannot too strongly advise that their runs should be airy and sheltered from the sun's rays by a *living* growth of vegetation.

Thus much for the chickens. Now let us turn to the moulting out of white poultry. We like the hens to sit in June or July. Sometimes we let them sit on dummy eggs for four or five weeks, and then turn them out in a good grass run. At another we give them half-a-dozen eggs to hatch if they like—not for the chickens they may rear so much as for the rest it will afford the mothers. Hens so treated moult out quickly and early; their feathers all come off together, and not in patches, and the new plumage grows quickly, the feathers coming strong

and firm. These birds should not however, have a cock running with them until they are taken to the breeding pen. Cocks should be put in small warm runs in July, with plenty of dust and road grit. They, too, will then moult out early and well—far better than if they had their liberty. Care only must be taken to see that they feed heartily, for occasionally they seem to, at first, pine for their freedom if they have been accustomed to it, and get below par when their moulting out becomes tedious, and the new plumage patchy. Green food, especially lettuces, we like to see given ungrudgingly, and sods of grass, cut two or three inches thick, are much appreciated, which, when done with, and allowed to dry, make excellent mould for potting flowers, or material for dust baths.

Many think that white poultry can be easily moulted, that their feathers are bound to come white, and that the process is consequently an easy one; but this is far from the truth of the case, we can assure our readers, for as much care and attention is wanted to get a white bird through its moult as ever is needed for a colored one, and perhaps more, for while slight stains or tinges, would not show probably in the latter, in the former they glare out conspicuously in contrast to the rest of the white plumage.

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