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BREEDING PEN BUFF COCHINS.

THE CANADIAN POULTRY REVIEW

DEVOTED TO POULTRY, PIGEONS & PET STOCK

VOL. XI.

TORONTO, ONTARIO, SEPTEMBER, 1888.

No. 9

DATES.

Canada's Great Industrial Fair, Toronto, Sept. 10th to 22nd. H. J. HILL.
 Eastern Townships Agricultural Association, Sherbrooke, Sept. 4th to 6th. E. WINN FARWELL.
 Brantford, Sept. 11th to 13th. R. M. WILLSON.
 Agricultural and Arts Association of Ontario, Kingston Sept. 10th to 15th. H. WADE, Toronto.
 Guelph, Sept. 12th to 14th. R. MACKENZIE.
 St. Thomas, Sept. 17th to 20th. JOHN A. KAINS.
 Western Fair Association, London, Sept. 20th to 29th. Geo. McBROOM.
 Great Central Fair, Hamilton, Sept. 24th to 28th. JONATHAN DAVIS.
 Almonte, Sept. 25th to 27th. WM. P. McEWEN.
 Wellesley, Sept. 25th and 26th. GEO. BELLINGER.
 Belleville, Sept. 25th to 28th. WM. SMEATON.
 Collingwood, Sept. 25th to 28th. T. H. CRAWFORD.
 St. Catharines, Sept. 24th to 26th. ALBERT PAR.
 Durham, Sept. 25th and 29th. ARCH. MACKENZIE.
 Central Exhibition Association, Ottawa, Sept. 24th to 29th. R. C. W. MACCVAIG.
 Belmont, Oct. 2nd. WM. BLACK.
 Chatham, Oct. 2nd to 5th. JOHN TISSIMAN.
 Barrie, Oct. 1st to 4th. R. J. FLETCHER.
 Cayuga, Oct. 2nd and 3rd. THOS. BRIDGES.
 Paris, Oct. 2nd and 3rd. JAMES O'NEAL.
 Goderich, Oct. 2nd to 5th. H. HAYDEN.
 Walkerton, Oct. 2nd to 5th. JACOB SEEGMILLER.
 Lindsay, Oct. 2nd to 4th. JAS. KEITH.
 Picton, Oct. 2nd and 3rd. THOS. BOG.
 Wallace town, Oct. 2nd and 3rd. D. CAMPBELL.
 Smithville, Oct. 3rd and 4th. W. H. MORGAN.
 Markham, Oct. 3rd to 5th. JAS. J. BARKER.
 Stratford, Oct. 4th and 5th. JOHN BROWN.
 Elora, Oct. 4th and 5th. JOHN MAIR.
 Otterville, Oct. 5th and 6th. ALEX. McFARLANE.
 Norwich, Oct. 12th to 14th. ALEX. McFARLANE.
 Simcoe, Oct. 16th and 17th. J. THOS. MURPHY.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

DON'T EXPECT.

To raise chicks and lice on the same ground.

Over fat hens to lay.

Chicks to thrive without care.

Feed-pans and dishes to keep clean

of their own accord.

Late chicks to feather easily without plenty of shade.

WHY DON'T YOU USE

Grit?
 Green Food?
 White-wash
 On the houses?
 Coal oil
 On the nest boxes and perches?
 A spade
 In the runs?
 Insect Powder
 In the nests?
 The hatchet
 On old hens?
 Ditto
 On culls?
 And various other?????
 Too numerous to mention?

We have arranged with Mr. F. A. Mortimer, the well-known fancier of Pottsville, Pa., to supply us with monthly jottings, which we trust will prove agreeable and instructive.

BARBER & Co., Toronto, are going to devote their entire attention to games and offer all their Lops and Barbs for sale. This is a good chance for some one to jump right to the front in these varieties.

AN APOLOGY.

We must apologise to our readers for the double dose "Concerning Eggs" which appeared twice in August RE-

VIEW. It may be some satisfaction for them to learn that the printer whose fault it was has been obliged to spend his summer vacation with his head in a sling.



MORTIMERS MONTHLY MORSELS.

In making our bow, kind reader we trust that our brief practical items will give you as much pleasure in reading, as they do us in writing them.

Do you want the whole earth? Then be satisfied with one breed, it will be far better, give you far more pleasure and pay you far better to spend your time on one variety than several, select the variety you like best and study it well. Unless you have some money to spend and some room to waste, keep only one kind.

Have you any idea of the magnitude of the poultry business, study up the subject, read statistics and you will be amazed, never fear that it will be overcrowded. The supply will never meet the demand. A good thing it is for many that Germany and Holland are permitted to ship to us their surplus eggs and poultry, otherwise many a poor mortal would not know what egg or chicken tasted like.

For poultry cholera Mr. Wright recommends a dose every three hours

of rhubarb, five grains; cayenne pepper, two grains; laudanum, ten drops; administering midway between each dose a teaspoonful of brandy, diluted with less than its bulk of water, into which have been dropped five drops of McDougall's fluid carbolate; or as a substitute a few drops of carbohc acid may be used.

Get your dust boxes ready for winter now. Fill with sand and dry earth, to which add a pound of flour of sulphur and tobacco. These boxes should be of a size to accommodate the fowls you keep and one foot deep. Keep it in a perfectly dry place, for if it gets wet or damp it will be entirely worthless. This will rid the hens of lice and they thoroughly enjoy such a bath. No fowls can thrive if kept in a filthy condition. Vermin annoys them terribly. While you are fixing up this matter, don't forget to thoroughly disinfect the hen-house. White wash the houses, put in the wash a gill of crude carbolic acid and a pint of crude petroleum, to each pailful of slacked lime. Look well after the nests. There is where vermin lurk in countless numbers. Thoroughly saturate the nest with this wash. This heroic treatment will soon rid hens and houses of vermin.

Don't forget that now is the time to get your hen house ready for winter. fix up comfortably for your flocks before it gets too cold. It will pay you to take time by the forelock and may save yourself frost bitten fingers, working in the cold late in the season. If you want to get any pleasure or profit out of your fowls go to work now.

Fowls should always be kept in such conditions that they are at all times fit to kill. If you do not keep them in that way, better begin to learn now. Fowls can be well fattened in two weeks if they are penned up in a coop where they can be kept in the dark all the time except when being fed. They should be fed on scalded cornmeal

three times a day all they can eat, giving them plenty of gravel, oystershell, or any gritty substance to help digestion. For drink give them milk, sweet, sour, fresh or skimmed thick or butter milk into which a handful of bran is stirred adding a little salt. The birds are very fond of it and eat it eagerly. To assist the fattening process pulverized charcoal, mixed with the soft feed or kept in boxes near by, should be freely given. Many persons use stuffing machines, but the above method is as good and less repulsive.

Did you ever know that dark colored eggs are usually laid by the varieties of poultry having strongly the setting propensities in their nature, while the eggs that are white are usually laid by what are known as the non setting varieties? I do not know an instance where the rule fails to hold good. It may be interesting to you to look into this subject.

Did you ever notice the great difference in the size and weight of eggs of different birds? One and a half ounces is the average weight of eggs of nearly all breeds. The Minorcas, as a rule, lay the largest eggs in size and yet the same time the largest number of any breed we ever saw. Their eggs will way two pounds to the dozen and they lay from 175 to 230 eggs per year.

The following item will probably interest you all, and come in well at this season when killing season begins. Although a dozen or more methods of picking fowls have been recommended the quickest and cleanest is to scald them. When fowls are killed for use in the family, we advise this method. In the markets, however, a great deal depends upon the looks of poultry in order to make quick sales at good prices. Scalding, it must be admitted, spoils the appearance of poultry intended for market, so that it becomes necessary to pluck market poultry dry, if the

best prices are expected to be obtained. That may be, unquestionably is, a mere matter of taste on the part of the buyers, but tastes are not to be disputed, and hence must be complied with.

Give all your chicks, young and old, plenty of oats and barley. They are rich in protein compounds and are the best grain to develop muscular tissue and growth.

We do not think any one will deny that as a means of recreation and diversions from the cares of the hard worked business man, or as a relaxation from the cares of professional life, nothing can compare with the keeping of choice poultry. To such a one who rents or owns a country or suburban home the keeping of choice poultry affords much pleasure.

It will do no good to let the cocks run with the hens now. It will do harm to both sexes. Now that the breeding season is over separate the sexes. It will be well, also, to separate the young cockerels from the pullets, place each sex in large runs by themselves and it will be a good advantage to both.

Do you know that fowls are affected by malaria as well as persons? When persons suffer from bilious disorders, diarrhoea, dysentery, malaria fever, etc., you may safely look for cholera and other diseases among your poultry, next time you have an epidemic of diphtheria in your neighborhood note how rousp prevails. At such times use preventatives: salt, iron, sulphur, pepper, ginger, and other tonics but you must use these things with discretion.

Don't feel annoyed if some of your customers, are unreasonable. If you have done right, and tried to please them, let them growl. Don't get angry, fly into a rage, and say something ugly. You will regret it and be ashamed of it

in your sober moments. Write kindly and use reason. Remember that one hair of a woman draws more than a cart rope.

FRANCIS A. MORTIMER,
Pottsville, Pa.

THE BLACK ROSE-COMB BANTAM.

The proper style and shape of these birds has often vexed our Canadian fanciers and the following from the pen of MR. ENOCH HUTTON, the veteran English fancier and judge in *The Stock-Keeper*, will no doubt prove interesting.

MR. HUTTON says:—"It is not my intention to interfere in the controversy on this subject, believing that a judge's duty is more to listen and accept—as far as possible—rather than to dictate, while still preserving an independent position; but I have had so many public and private solicitations to give my views on this breed through the medium of your columns, no doubt on account of my being one of the first (if not the first) to undertake the improvement of the breed, so that I feel it my duty to do so, which opinion must, however, be taken without prejudice, for whatever standard may be laid down, there are times when, on account of condition, position, and kindred other causes, no hard-and-fast line can be followed out in judging.

It has been with the utmost vexation that I have for the last decade seen the achievements in this beautiful, strutting and saucy little toy spoiled by both judges and breeders going in for a Gamey style, with narrow tail and sickles, and tucked-up wings and narrow chests. From some cause or other, which I have not yet been able to satisfy myself upon, the earlobe is more easily got in this style of black Bantam; but in my opinion too much stress is laid on the earlobe in both the Ham-

burgh and Bantam varieties. Not but that a good sound earlobe is a desirable embellishment, but why go in for an earlobe that is out of all proportion to the size of the bird, at the cost of many of the best points of the breed? It would be quite as well to set up a strain of black Spanish Bantams, which I should like to see established.

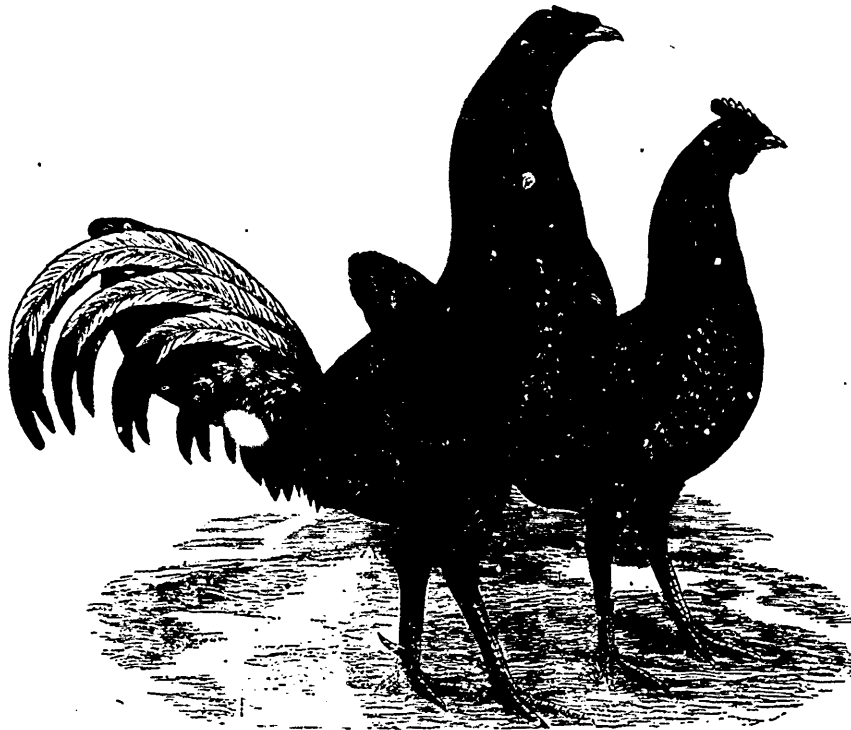
It is now close on thirty-six years since I first took the improvement of the black Bantam in hand, and I have never been without them since, though I had them in some form, and mostly henny-feathered, for years before that time; and the standard I set up in the early days of the fancy is the standard I should like to see to-day, and which—whatever others may do—it will be my endeavour to establish by all the legitimate means in my power, with a due regard to the views of others. This may appear to savour a little of the dogmatic, but this is not the case, as I have a respect for the feelings of others; but what of a judge who cannot put his foot down decidedly on the points of a breed on which he may have to adjudicate? My idea of a perfect black Bantam is as follows, viz. (the same points as to shape, style, and carriage applying to the white rose-combed also, which I consider the counterpart of the black):—The black Bantam should be in all respects the reverse of the Game Bantam in shape, style, and carriage; and no one will be far wrong who adheres to this rule.

The comb should be like that of a Hamburg in all respects, *i.e.*, wedge-shaped from front to back, with a good long spike at back, turned up a little at the end, the surface level, and well filled with serrations or small spikes; the head broad and short; the beak short and a little curved; neck strong and short, well covered with a profusion of feathers, giving the appearance of what is technically termed a *bull neck*; the hackle flowing freely towards the centre of the back, which should be deep and

broad, the hind part to the base of the tail well covered with hackle feathers, out of which the tail should rise with a slight tendency backward, covered with an amplitude of feather, not too long, but broad, and in keeping with the size of the bird, the tail being well spread; and the whole, from the end of the beak to the end of the tail, forming one unbroken series of curves that finish gracefully off (without angles) one into another.

The face should be red, but not too light red, the eye dark bright red, and earlobes small, round, and white, giving the idea of neatness, as against massiveness, and with a kid-glove texture of surface. The wattles round and in keeping with the comb, chest broad, and breast carried prominently, thighs short, and legs rather on the short side, feet small and dainty, the toes only touching the ground when the bird is excited, wings not too long, but in good proportion, broad in feather and carried with a jaunty expression or a little down the thighs. The colour of the plumage (which was originally purple-black) should be as near that of a black Hamburg as possible, with legs black or almost black, with no marks of flesh-colour on the hind inner part when young, and dark slate or blue in old birds, grey or flesh-coloured legs being a bad point. The carriage should be nervous and tremulous, something after the style of the Fantail pigeon, and jaunty and saucy in expression.

When I commenced the breed almost all were gipsy-faced, and many were henny-feathered, these defects being corrected by freely crossing with the white rose-combed variety; but a very great improvement has taken place in colour of face, though as yet, where the face is too light red in colour, there is a tendency to throw red feathers in the neck and saddle of the cock, and white or greyish-white legs in both sexes.



DOMINIQUE PIT GAMES.

THE DOMINIQUE GAME.

BY H. P. CLARK, IRVINGTON, IND.

Having lately received from the Dominion several inquiries in regard to this variety, I beg space in your valuable paper to briefly describe the fowls. The question most often asked is, "Will the birds breed true to color?" they will not, that is, not true in the same sense that a standard fowl does. This variety is a pure pit strain, bred chiefly for their fighting qualities, and

so are not very carefully mated with respect to plumage. At the present time here in the States, cockers are in the habit of calling almost any spangled Game a "dominique". Some men do take the pains to mate together birds of the dominique or cuckoo markings, and get them very good, but even the best of such strains throw occasional white or gray chickens. Some breed better than others, of course. The correct style of marking is the blue barred Dominique, similar in shade to that of the Domini-

que Leghorn; yellow beak and legs, red eyes. When it is necessary to cross with another strain, be careful to select specimens which have no Duckwing, Pile or Red blood in them. The colors preferred in their order are, a cross between blue and white, blue, white, blue pile, black, grey. The grey is named last because crosses with it are liable to show yellow in the wings and back, straw hackel and black tail.

These birds are excellent layers, good foragers, the best of sitters and

mothers, and as hardy as any fowl I ever raised. In fact they possess all the valuable economic qualities of the pure Pit Game, which is, in my estimation, the best "general purpose" fowl to be had, for this climate. Anyone wishing to breed genuine game fowls, and at the same time have some "fancy points," will find few birds more interesting and better adapted to such breeding than the Dominique Games.

I am glad to see the pure Pit Game being brought out in your Canadian show-rooms. But why do the societies insist on having the birds of any particular color? It is all right to mate them that way merely for personal gratification, but an off-colored fowl may be in all essential characteristics just as good as the most finely marked, and so should stand on the same footing when being judged.

While on this breed, permit me to call attention to "The American Game Club," organized not long ago in the interest of Games and Game Bantams. This is a specialist club which breeders on both sides of the border should join and support. It promises to be a very important part of the fancy before another show season. MR. JOHN FILKIN, of Orange, N. J., is the Secretary, who would be glad to furnish full particulars to anyone interested.

WASHING.

We are frequently asked at this season how best to prepare birds for the show bench. The adults are usually so dirty and shabby after the season's work that they are quite unfit to show without considerable preparation. They should be kept apart and in the shade as far as possible. All minor broken feathers should be removed sufficiently long before the show to give them time to grow again, but care must be taken that no leading feathers are removed in such a way as to give reasonable ground for suspicion that the bird

has been trimmed. In the white or light coloured varieties, and, indeed, in all varieties in which there is any light colour capable of showing dirt, a good washing is essential. It must not be attempted, however, if the bird has begun to cast its feathers, as the almost certain result will be a sudden moult, which will spoil all chance of success. The great secret of washing successfully is to do it boldly, a half wash is worse than none at all. The bird should be placed in a clean tub of good size, in about 10 or 12 inches of water, and should in the first place be soaked to the skin with the water, which, by the way, should be fairly warm, though not warm enough to cause the bird to faint. Should this contingency occur, as it sometimes will with heavy birds, a dash of cold water over the head or the holding of the head under the water spout for a minute or two will bring the bird round. When once it has been thoroughly soaked with water it should be as thoroughly soaked with some white soap or with soft soap, a good lather being raised and all parts being well soaped. The use of a sponge and brush are decidedly advantageous, and there need be no fear as to breaking the feathers provided they are not rubbed directly against the grain. To rub them across the grain and to scrub the really soiled parts well with a brush is necessary. If the bird be very dirty it may be desirable to use a second supply of warm water for the wash, but in any case three or four fresh supplies of warm water should be at hand to thoroughly rinse out the soap from all parts. The soap should be well washed out with hand and sponge in the first water used, and the subsequent rinsing waters may be thrown over the bird partly; the rinsing process should be continued in any case until there is no sign of soap on any of the feathers. When this stage has been reached the bird should be placed on a table and thoroughly dried

with a soft clean cloth, rubbing well into the feathers. If these should have become matted at all in the process they should be combed out with a clean comb, and the bird should then be put to dry in a clean basket, the lining of which has been turned back from one side, placed in front of the fire. It must not be near enough, however, to blister the bird's skin or to curl the feathers. Attention is necessary during the drying process to see that the bird turns itself to the fire, so that all parts get a fair share of the heat and dry simultaneously or nearly so. If the birds are tame, the bottom bar of a kitchen table round three sides of which a curtain has been hung, makes a good roost, on which they can be placed near the fire and can dry without risk of getting soiled, as they may do if placed on straw, unless carefully watched. We recommend all beginners to try their hands in the first instance on a bird not intended for show, and to practice two or three times if necessary on such a bird.—*Poultry.*

RECEIPTS FOR COOKING EGGS.

Editor Review:—

In the April number of the REVIEW appeared an invitation to your readers to furnish receipts for cooking eggs. As none have been tendered so far. I offer the following:—

1. Boil the eggs three minutes.
2. Put the eggs in a vessel and pour boiling water over them, cover closely and let them stand off the stove about 15 minutes.

NOTE.—This way is considered by many preferable to the first.

3. Put a piece of butter about the size of an egg in a pan, add a pint of milk and a few small onions (or one large onion) sliced, let it come to a boil then add a table spoonful of flour thoroughly wet in a little cold milk. Boil three or four eggs hard, shell them and cut in slices into the pan, season

with pepper and salt to taste, and serve at once without stirring.

NOTE.—This receipt may be enlarged if desirable.

Wishing the REVIEW and the editor every success,

Yours truly,

D. J. A. RITCHIE.

Allans Mills, Aug. 14th, 1888.

TORONTO POULTRY, PIGEON AND PET STOCK ASSOCIATION.

This Association resumed its monthly meetings on August 9th, when a goodly number of members turned out, the President in the chair.

The chief point of discussion lay in the feasibility of holding a show next winter, and a committee was appointed to confer with the sister Association in the city on the subject.

Several of the members brought birds including Black Polish by Mr. Bache, Pekin Bantams by Thompson & Son, and Game Bantams by Mr. C. Moore.

FROM COVER TO COVER.

BY W. C. G. PETER.

The discussion now opening up in REVIEW promises to be exceedingly interesting and instructive. The remarks by "Science" as to temperature &c, open the way to ventilate a subject that all need to be informed upon fully. About three years ago I had a sitting of eggs that I prized, in process of incubation, a terrific wind and thunder storm unroofed the place where the hen was sitting, and in the morning I found her off the eggs, which had received a fearful drenching and were as cold as stones; they had but a week to hatching time, and though despairing of any chicks, I made up a fresh nest, and put a dry hen that was clucking to finish the brood, the result was five chicks from ten eggs, three had been broken; these lived and were as strong as they could be. The change of temperature

in this case must have been very great, the wind would cause the rain to strike very cold, and then the added chill of the early morning when they were left uncovered all goes to prove that the eggs will stand wonderful degrees of cold, and yet the germ in some instances survive. In common with many others who are as successful as myself, I use insect powder in the nests of the sitters, Persian or Dalmation; I always dust the sitter thoroughly a day or two before sitting her; and again a few days before hatching. It never hurts the eggs or chicks with me, and many who I know act on the same plan. N. B. always have a good large place for your sitters to dust in; mine often go to their dusting place before they eat; they enjoy that luxury, as we do, (or ought to do) a comfortable bath.

It is interesting to note MR. MCCORMICK'S success with early W. Wyandottes. They must be very different to the laced variety, as he says his cockerel, hatched this year sired the chicks that were hatched on the 26th June, in the laced variety, I do not think you could get a cockerel to throw even an admiring glance on the most beautiful and coquettish pullet that ever graced the race, at less than five months of age. I have no desire to see it either, as it is a sure fore-runner of decrease in size. And the Wyandotte (of any color) must have size to hold its own in the rank to which it has attained.

Is it not refreshing Mr. Editor, to get such a letter as that from MR. A. R. BEST in Aug. number. Now that we know there is at least one individual professing faith in us, let us take heart, who knows but that even a "chicken man" will be able to beat his way into being looked upon even as other men.

Re flavor of eggs, we once fed a quantity of fish to our layers, but "never no more." It don't "chord well."

If the excessive heat is giving any trouble, a little rice boiled in part milk and part water, and ground bone in feed

will soon stop it, or chalk grated up and put in feed is a fine remedy, also lime water.

MR. BEST has a few pertinent remarks on the hatching question. If express handling was so much to blame for bad hatches, nearly all would fare alike, but when customers report so variedly of results; there must be other causes to blame than the handling *en route*. When a breeder sends such as are giving him good results at home; they ought to give a fair percentage to the buyer barring accident. But one of the causes of trouble is the curiosity of the purchaser, he wants to find out before hand if those eggs are going to hatch. When a man writes me that he gets a good hatch sometimes a chick for every egg, I do not feel proud about it, I expect the eggs to do well, but I always congratulate the customer on his or her good management, and my blessing goes to the *hen*. BRO. BEST is correct there, the hen is an all important factor in the process of incubation. Have not we all had now and then one of those exasperating biddies? And when she begins to ruffle her plumes at the tender glances of her lord and master, we are apt to say "well old Polly wants to sit, but I don't think we'll try her any more." And often it happens that you will try again, because these kind of hens are so very preserving, (till the eggs are spoilt) and after repeated failure you will bless yourself backwards, and nothing but a charmed existence saves her neck from the block. I think we "have all been there."

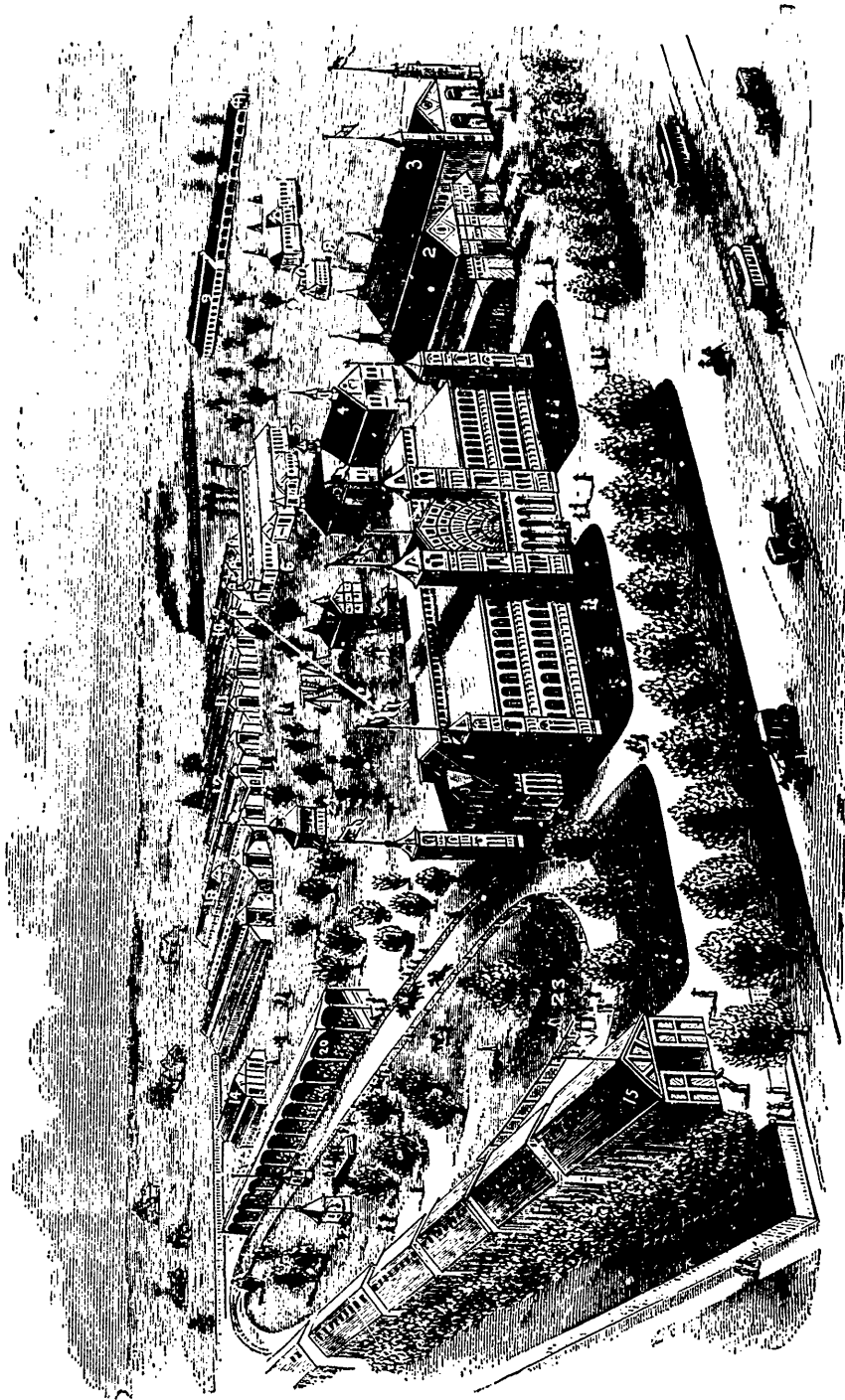
NOTES.

THAT HOMER.

The bird which we noted in last issue fled from Port Hope to Stratford and is the property of Mr. H. Levett.

MR. JAS. MAIN

Boyne has brought over with him from England several Black Red Games including some winners at the late Royal Show.



WESTERN FAIR GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS, LONDON, ONT.

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Main Building. | 6 Carriage Hall. | 11 Sheep Pens. | 16 General Offices. | 21 Judges' Stand. |
| 2 Agricultural Hall. | 7 Dairy Hall. | 12 Cattle Sheds. | 17 Dining Hall of the W. C. T. U. | 22 Band Stand. |
| 3 Horticultural Hall. | 8 Agricultural Implement Building. | 13 Barn for Cattle. | 18 Ladies' Parlor. | 23 Horse Ring. |
| 4 Poultry Hall. | 9 Heavy Machinery Hall. | 14 Dining Hall. | 19 Fire Hall. | 24 Band Stand. |
| 5 International Bench Show of Dogs. | 10 Hog Pens. | 15 Horse Stables. | 20 Grand Stand. | |



PIGEONS

THE DOMESTIC PIGEON.

BY E. V. HUBBELL, OTTAWA.

The Pigeon, from its great fecundity, we have, to some extent, reclaimed from a state of nature, and taught to live in habits of dependence, and the more we cultivate it, the greater its fecundity, for we are all aware that wild pigeons are not so prolific as the tame ones. This, I think, depends upon the quantity of the food and allowing a proper share of freedom. The tame pigeon, of which there are over one hundred known varieties, derive their origin from the *Biset*, or wild Blue Rock Pigeon, inhabiting all the warm and temperate regions of the globe, and as a general rule are inoffensive and harmless in their nature, living on berries, grain, and seeds, seldom eating insects or animal food. They are monogamists, each living and adhering to a single mate, but we very often see an exception to this, the attachment between them being very slight. The female lays two eggs, and the remarkable part of it is, that they nearly always produce male and female, seldom resembling their parents in exact points. Climate is apt to make a difference in the outward appearances of pigeons, for those living within the tropics have much brighter plumage than those that live in the temperate zone, which have a grayish or bluish tint of feather. Perhaps a few of the readers of the REVIEW would like to know what the Blue Rock Pigeon is like, I will endeavour to give a description, gathered from the best authority I can obtain. The home of this bird in its wild or natural state, is among the rocky and precipitous cliffs, particularly those of the sea-coast perforated by crevices, and places hollowed out by the action of the waves. They

abound in swarms in most of the rocky islands of Africa, Asia, and in the Mediterranean. The plumage of this bird in its natural state is as follows:—Head, throat, lower part of breast, and abdomen of a bluish gray; bill, blackish-brown; nostril membrane, red, sprinkled as it were, with a white powder; the irids, pale reddish-orange; sides of neck and upper part of breast, dark lavender purple, glossed with shades of green and purplish-red. The greater coverts and secondaries are barred with black, and form two broad and distinct bars across the closed wings. Lower part of back is white, tail of a deep gray, with a broad black bar at the end; the wings when closed reach within half an inch of the end of the tail. Legs and feet are of a pale purplish-red, and from this bird all our beautiful fancy pigeons, by man's ingenuity, are derived. But to return to our former subject. For the laying of each egg it is necessary to have a particular congress with the male, and the egg is usually deposited in the afternoon. When both are laid, the female, in fifteen days, not including the three days she is employed in laying, sets on her eggs, relieved at regular intervals by the male, from three or four o'clock in the afternoon until ten the next morning is the female's turn, she is then relieved by the male, who takes his place from ten to three, or thereabouts, while his mate feeds, and if either one does not return at the expected time the other follows and drives it to nest.

To be Continued.

RAMBLING THOUGHTS OF A PIGEON FANCIER.

BY MR. W. H. CLUTTERBUCK.

The following paper was read before the members of the Birmingham Columbarian Society:—

I think there needs some explanation why I have chosen this subject for my paper. You will doubtless wonder why

I have not elected to read a paper on some breed of their management. This I consider not in my way. Not that I know nothing of pigeons or pigeon-breeding, for I have kept pigeons, and associated with pigeon keepers, ever since I first knew how to drive a nail into a soap box. But I have long come to regard the matter of breeding not as putting two birds together, but as a scientific study. I shall therefore take the liberty of leaving the higher branches of our pastime in the hands of more able men than myself, while I try to interest you with a few rambling thoughts which I have gathered from my own observation. I have many times when seated in this room asked myself this question, What can there be in pigeons or pigeon fancying that can bring together, night after night, an assembly of highly respectable and intelligent-looking men like I see around me to talk about a pigeon. There must be some charm or fascination about them not known to ordinary mortals. Where is it, what is it? "They are only pigeons after all," says one, "and you can buy them for a mere trifle a couple at any poulterer's."

"Ah, says another, "they would look well with a mutton chop under a bit of crust." "I like to see them flying about a farmyard," is a common remark of many people, not that they care a straw about them, only that pigeons happen to be one of the class of birds that have long been accustomed to dwell near the abode of man, and they certainly add greatly to the charm of a rural scene, and especially when the observer is in that pleasant frame of mind to give them a passing notice, which is as much as can be expected from the people which are not at all interested in such things. I well remember once bringing up a pair to show a friend, which I placed upon the table in a cage. After describing at some length their beautiful properties and feather-marking, the cock betook himself to one corner of the cage and began to call

his hen. "How they groan," exclaimed my friend, "they would give me the horrors." "Ah!" said I, "that's music to a fancier." I also remember one of our members telling me that he had a friend call upon him once, who stated that he had heard he was a great fancier of pigeons, and he would like to see the birds. Our friend gladly acted at his request, and at once showed him a splendid collection of Orientals and other varieties. After spending at least an hour in showing off their different markings, etc., he was asked when leaving, "Excuse me, sir, are these what they call Carriers?" Judge of our friend's disgust. Such are some of the remarks one often hears about our favourites. Some people are even vain enough to imagine that a man who can admire a pigeon and spend most of his leisure time in attending to their wants must be a man with a very little mind which a very small matter pleases. In this they were never wider of the mark. I contend that a man to be a successful fancier must be a great admirer of proportion, an extraordinary judge of colour, and a great lover of form in everything that is beautiful. What more pleasing sight to a fancier than to see his best bird doing homage in endless circles round a hen that he knows can breed a good one? What lessons of devotion and attachment we can learn from our favourites, which we should do well to imitate towards the "partners of our joys and sorrows." Mark the affection as he gathers the loose bits of straw and feathers, and places them with the greatest care around his better-half; see how he keeps sentry during the period of laying, prepared almost to take his death in defence of the object of his affections. Notice his care of the offspring; how uneasily does he assist the wife in the nurture of the little ones, during the period of infancy and weakness; watch the industry with which he searches for the food, the grit, and all the necessaries that go towards the making of a healthy offspring; and

when in the course of events the wife begins to look into the future and neglect the present, the father, though surrounded by domestic difficulties, attends to the wooing, but he never neglects his old love till the time comes when he can say, "Now you must shift for yourselves I have other important business to attend to." There is a lesson for you, fathers, which we should do well to imitate.

Some of my hearers will doubtless consider that I have attempted to make the matter of breeding a very simple process, when at the same time they are aware that I know it to be otherwise, especially in the case of high-class birds; but I will remind them that man's idea of excellence, in many instances, is far in excess of what nature has designed. Nature gave us the blue Rock but man, never satisfied, set about improving upon it, with the result of which most of us are aware. But it has brought with it its consequent troubles and misfortunes in the shape of difficulties in getting the young properly fed and reared so that they can shift for themselves, to say nothing of the many diseases the modern varieties of birds have brought with them, ailments to which the wild bird in a state of nature is almost an entire stranger. I allude more especially to the difficulties experienced by the breeders of such high-class pigeons as short-faced Tumblers and Carriers in getting their young properly fed; but man has been equal to the emergency by ways and means, to those not accustomed to such dodges, which are most surprising. We are very grateful to the men who have displayed such care and energy, and, I might say, unlimited patience, in placing such grand specimens before us which we see at some of our leading shows—birds that would have made our forefathers stare with amazement.

(To be continued.)

PROLAPSUS.

Would you be kind enough to inform me through your paper what ails a pigeon of mine, she has a sort of lump near the vent inside, she is not egg-bound as I have tried a cure for that.

Yours respectfully,

GEO. CARRIE.

St. Thomas Ont.

(Your bird suffers from *prolapsus* or a falling of the vent which is incurable though it may linger on for some time. Ed.)

TORONTO BANTAM, PIGEON AND PET STOCK CLUB.

This club has resumed its monthly meetings, the August meeting being chaired by Vice-President Thompson in the absence of the President.

The committee appointed by the Toronto Poultry Association were present and after discussion it was decided that the two Associations get together and confer as to holding a winter exhibition.

Among the birds on exhibition were Pyle, Black-red and Pekin Bantams from Thompson & Son, Brown-red Bantams from Mr. Jno. Miles, and Pigeons from Messrs. Fox & Holden.



FEEDING FOR COLOUR DURING MOULT.

The method of putting the little songsters through the mill, which is to lead to their success during the coming show-season, is as follows:—To one hard-boiled egg take two biscuits, tea preferred mix well together adding about as much salt as will lie on a sixpence, then take two teaspoonsful of cool pepper (Brown's Canaryper is about the best we have ever tried), and mix well with the egg and biscuit; give the birds as much of this mixture as they will eat.

Our non-cayenne-fed birds are moul-

ted on the following:— $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of Colman's mustard, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of turmeric, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of red sandal wood, very finely powdered. These ingredients we mix well together, and keep in a tin canister, and to each egg and its accompanying quantity of biscuit we put half a teaspoon of this mixture; also a slight sprinkling of maw seed and salt. We also put a few marigolds every day. To ensure complete success the bird's water, as well as its food, must be used as a vehicle to convey colour. In place of the usual drinking water we give our birds the following—Take $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of best meadow saffron and pour over it half-a-pint of boiling water, when cool add two wineglassfuls each of brandy and port wine; also a few drops of red sandalwood oil; pour this into a bottle and keep tightly corked. One teaspoonful of this should be given the birds each day in a wine-glassful of water.

Two or three times during the whole process of the moult we give our birds fresh-boiled carrots, which tightens the feathers and puts a good gloss on them; a little sulphate of iron placed in the water is also very beneficial in tightening the jacket and giving tone to the system. We also give our birds a piece of suet or fat raw bacon, and they relish it greatly. We are no advocates of the theory that a bird should not have green food during moult; we occasionally give ours a sprig of fresh water cress, which has a very beneficial effect on the bird's stomach. It must be remembered that if the liver is overloaded with colouring matter it will not act, and a little green meat occasionally keeps that organ in good working order.

In place of the egg and biscuit we sometimes use saffron cake, which we make as follows:—Half a pound of best wheaten flour, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of butter, the yolks (no whites) of four eggs; beat the eggs and butter together; then add the sugar and flour, and two wine-glassfuls of saffron mixture given above; this is a nice change from egg and biscuit, and is much relished by the birds.

We have tried many systems of colour feeding, but have found the above to be the best; we also trust our young amateur readers will be successful with it. The bird-room should be kept nicely warmed during the moulting season, for the quicker a bird moults the better it looks.

When the birds have finished moulting they should be placed singly in show cages, and kept covered with a thin covering to exclude the light and dust, both of which effects a canary's plumage in a most pernicious manner, and very soon spoils the effect of a successful moult.—*Fanciers Gazette.*



GREAT CENTRAL FAIR, HAMILTON.

This fair is to be held on Sept. 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28, entries close Sept. 18th, except on the additional payment of a fee of 50c., up to the 22nd, when the entries finally close. Mr Jonathan Davis is Secretary.

The prize-list is seemingly progressing backwards at a 2.40 gait, and soon will be unknown, save as a curiosity. In addition to the membership fee of \$1.00 exhibitors this year are obliged to pay an entrance fee on each pair of 25c (all birds are shown in pairs). Fowls, Ducks, Geese and Turkeys are limited to 45 classes of part \$4.00 and \$2.00, and part \$3.00 and \$2.00. Chicks and young Ducks have only 22 classes between them of \$3.00 and \$2.00, Bantams being entirely cut off. Pigeons have been reduced to 5 classes, of \$2.00 and \$1.00, and a collective section of \$4.00 and \$2.00.

Diplomas are offered for breeding-pens, and as no money is offered they, of course, ask a fee for these of 50c. In fact, throughout, the classification is most unique and stands out in strong contrast to the Toronto and London newly revised schedules. The manage-

ment must surely be slowly fossilizing.

Messrs. W. H. Gillard and Murray A. Kerr are the Poultry Committee.

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