AT THE POULTRY SHOW.

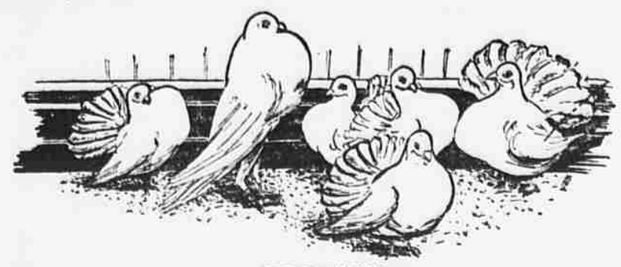
STAR BIRDS AT THE GARDEN AND THEIR ADMIRERS.

Roosters to Be Looked At and Roosters to Be Eaten—A Feathered Image of Edouard de Reszke—Bantam Row and Its Tiny Denizens—A Lordly Game Bird.

The eighth annual exhibition of the New York Poultry and Pigeon Association began in Madison Square Garden Tuesday morning. Five thousand feathered stars cackled, crowed, quacked, gobbled, peeped, and cooed their way into the big heart of the public, and three kinds of people have been going to see them ever since.

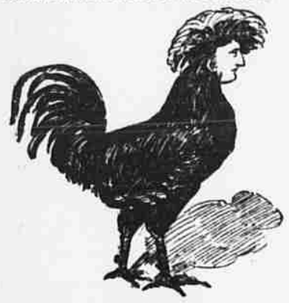
The first and largest consists of people who really love the birds for their own sakes and not from a utilitarian viewpoint. It really grieves such a person, if he raises fowls of his own, to kill one for table use, and he looks about in vain for one that he can sacrifice to man's appetite without a pang, but never finds it. This sort is well up in chicken cult, and talks most learnedly about hackles, saddles, combs, ear lobes, and plumage. The second kind of people is made up of gay-looking men, young and old, who hang around the display of game breeds from morning until night and tell of the wonderful bouts that they have seen in the cockpit. The last kind one finds at every show of every kind in every place. It is made up of certain persons who go everywhere either out of idle curiosity or because they are afraid that they will miss something.

A round of the exhibition proves most interesting to anybody who takes the trouble to make it. It is great fun to stand at the inside entrance of the Garden and watch the people come in. They rush straight for their favorite breed after tormenting the catalogue venders with questions. One soon learns to tell just



GREAT SWELLS.

where certain men or women will go by their appearance, or rather by their questions. The stylish young women rush off to see the roosters with gay plumage, while their practical mothers go straight to the pens confining the good layers or the fowls with reputations for being fine table birds. Children at the show invariably ask, "Where are the banties?" and chase off to "Bantam row," as the raised terrace on the Twenty-sixth street side of the Garden is called.



ONE OF THE CROWNED HEADS.

there to revel in the doings of the liliputians of poultryland. The young men about town, and the old ones, too, do not ask any questions at all, but seem to know by instinct where the gamesters are quartered.

There are many women exhibitors, and that the sex generally is interested in the show is proved by their prominence among the visitors. The most fascinating frizzle chickens in the Garden belong to Miss Clarke and T. Farrer Rackam together. Miss Clarke came down from West Haven with her birds and looks after them just as tenderly as a spinster would look after her favorite cat. And she is just as ready to talk about their good points, too.

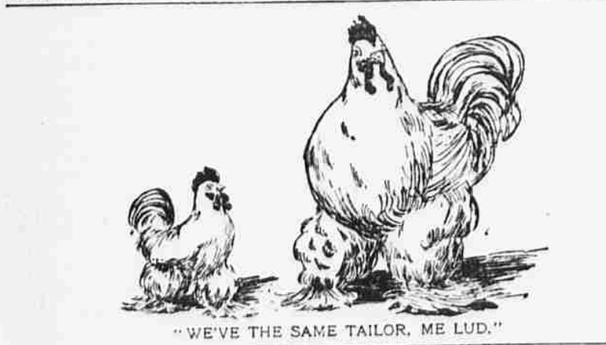
"Goodness me," exclaimed a young woman gazing at a big frizzle rooster, "I do believe the owner of that chicken has curled his feathers with the curling irons for the occasion."

"Indeed I haven't," answered Miss Clarke, taking the bird from his cage. "Look for yourself and see that he is naturally curly. You see his feathers start to grow the right way and then each one turns back."

NATURALLY CURLY.

"Hawk," exclaimed the exhibitor, shaking him viciously. "You've got no business in a show."

"That's right," interrupted a man with feeling. "Birds should be handled, trained, educated for a show, just as actresses and opera singers are. Before putting them on exhibition their owners should call them around and tame them. Now, my frizzles have been trained from the time they were hatched, and are so well mannered I can take up any one I want and it doesn't make a particle of difference to the chicken. One of my hens is so tame that



"WE'VE THE SAME TAILOR, ME LUD."

"Oh, and isn't his coloring beautiful!" exclaimed the girl, completely won over. "If I could only have a gown in that combination of colors! Did you ever see such a clear buff, and it shades into almost a rich brown. Do look how he throws his Elizabethan ruff over his head."

"Yes," answered the proud owner, "he's mad when he does that. These frizzles are very practical birds. They are good layers and delicious to eat. What's his name? None of them is named, but some one suggested that I call him Vice Versa." Putting him gently back, the owner took out a hen and asked: "Now, isn't this white frizzle hen a beauty?"

TIRED OF THE SHOW.

"Yes," hesitated the visitor, as the hen's feathers stood on end with rage at being disturbed, "but I do think she looks as if forked lightning had struck her."

"Anyway, she has never been beaten in a show yet," retaliated the owner, "and don't you wish you had a feather boa like hers?"

A long-tailed Japanese rooster occupied a cage near this wonderful hen and attracted many visitors, especially women. The Mikado of Japan will have no other species of chicken in his poultry yard. This one is in gorgeous array and caused many a daintily dressed woman to break one of the commandments. His saddle feathers are very long, pointed, and silky, and are of a rich yellow. Some of his tail feathers measure nearly two feet.

Ned IV. is a buff cochin gentleman with a great reputation for size and laziness. He belongs to John and Arthur Sharp of Oakdale Farm, Taunton, Mass., and took first prize at the Boston Poultry and Pigeon Show last year for being the biggest chicken there. When in condition he weighs sixteen pounds, but he is a little off weight now.

"What a grand color he is!" remarked a stout woman as she stopped to worship at his shrine.

"And so big!" put in another.

"Good! he's got on bloomers," said a man, stooping down to catch a glimpse of him.

"So he has," chorled the women, taking in the feathers on his legs.

"And snowshoes, too," suggested some one else, looking at his feet.

"Yes, but his wattles don't agree with the color of his feathers," commented one with a delicately developed color sense.

"Hully gee, wouldn't Ned be a cinch for a church fair?" remarked an irreverent man. "Think of the salad he would make and how long it would last."

This was more than the owner could stand. "Why, buff cochins are the finest table birds in the world," he said, "and Ned is the finest feathered bird in this country. He's known all over Massachusetts. He stands thirty-two inches high in his feather feet and is a corker in every way. He is an easy mark for first prize for size, for nothing here can touch him, and is so lazy he hardly ever walks around."

A group of men stood before the cages of several golden Polish fowls.

"That's a great rooster," commented one.

"Don't say rooster," said a companion, nudging him. "It's so countryfied; say cock and cockerel."

"How in the deuce am I to know when a chicken is a cock or a cockerel?" answered the man, somewhat irritated.

"That's dead easy," explained the authority. "A bird hatched in the spring of '96 is a cockerel that year. The next it becomes a cock. Really a chicken's cockerel days end after about the first six months.

"You've heard the theory, perhaps, that every human being bears a striking resemblance to some bird. Now, I've seen many women much like the catbird, and more men who reminded me of jays, but this cock you are standing before is strikingly like Napoleon. His crest of feathers looks exactly like the three-cornered hat worn by the Corsican, but that isn't all. There is something in the expression of the eyes that brings the great General to mind."

"Dear me, here's a hen with five toes," a shrill feminine voice sings out as a party draws up before the silver-gray dorkings.

"Certainly," volunteered the owner.

"Why, don't all chickens have five toes?" asked a man.

"No, goosey," answered his wife promptly.

"They all have four toes," put in the authority again, "except the Dorkings, the French fowls, and the Japanese silkies, which are featherless birds, being entirely covered with down. The Dorking may well be called the great national bird of England, as the turkey is of North America, for it is the favorite table bird there. See what immense breasts they have."

"I wish my landlady would get a few so I could get a rest from wings and legs," remarked a man, and the party moved on with a laugh.

The Dorking hens are not attractive at first, but their beauty is of the kind that grows on one. They are very handsomely pencilled and are uncommonly trim and graceful.

The Polish fowls come in for a great deal of favorable comment. The buff black-laced ones are particularly pleasing as regards color, but the women who visit them do not quite like the idea of the hens having beards.

"How can they see to eat with those red rosettes around their eyes to match their combs?" asked a girl. Nobody answered, but when some one threw in a few grains of corn there was a great splutter and struggle to get the most of the kernels in the shortest time. The white-crested black Polish breed seems to take a high stand in popular opinion.

"They haven't been scissored much," commented a woman exhibitor.

"What do you mean by that?" asked one of the uninitiated.

"Their crests should be pure white, and it is a great temptation to cut or pull out the black feathers for a show; but you see nearly all of these have a few black ones in their bonnets."

"It's much more stylish, I think," added a woman.

"As a breed," continued the exhibitor, "these fowls are not good layers. They are merely ornamental. I tell you what I can do," she rattled on, pleased to show how much she knew about poultry; "any of you can bring me any feather of any color, except solid black or white, and I will tell you the variety and the sex of the bird from which it came and just from what section you pulled it."

"Impossible!" exclaimed everybody within hearing.

"Very simple. I'll demonstrate," she said, taking a rooster from its cage. The fellow squawked and fluttered and kicked up a terrible dust before submitting to superior authority.

THE LATEST BIT OF SCANDAL.

the men in hearing went after him to see this wonder. The black-breasted, red and black fellow is No. 1107 in the catalogue, and is a beauty. His comb is dubbed in fighting style, and his legs are long and straight and strong. When some one remarked that it looked as if it would be hard work for him to eat off the ground, the man of loud garb and likewise gab said:

"I betcher a cold fiver he never did eat off the ground. Ain't you fellows sports? Don't you know how John L. here has been trained? His food is put up a little higher every day, and this puts up his muscle and freedom of stretch, and it keeps his tail down, which is a great thing in training birds for the pit. Fellows that don't know that ought to go to cat shows instead of poultry shows."

One of the most popular families quartered in the Garden now is the Blue Andalusian. These fowls are especially popular with the cooking school girl and the practical housewife, for, like all Mediterranean birds, the hens are perfect egg machines.

A FUGILIST.

"The Blue Andalusian is the best fowl ever invented by God or man." So a breeder who has a number on exhibition says, and nobody disputes him. The rooster's feathers about the breast, neck, and saddle are of a shade of blue very fashionable at present and blend beautifully with the dark blue back and tail feathers. The fowls have large thin combs and are very graceful.

"Oh, mamma, just look at the harems," cried a little girl with a shocked expression, and everybody who heard her agreed that it was an excellent name for the breeding pens that extend round half the circle of the Garden. No one feathered gentleman can claim the distinction of being "cock of the walk," for there are many who have now the right to that title. The big buff Cochin, black Cochin, Langshan, and Brahma roosters lord it over the hens in the pens with them with all the airs that the Sultan of Turkey could possibly assume. They pet or peck their companions, as the notion seizes them, and strut and swell proudly.

"Bantam row" is a great place. Some of the silver Seabright midgets are white, with black lacing, and others gold, with black lacing. "There is more blood in one Seabright bantam," declared a breeder to a crowd of visitors, "than there is in all of the Daughters of the Revolution in this city. Just look how every feather is laced, even the tail and wing feathers."

"How do you ever get a bantam any way, sir?" asked a curly haired little girl.

INFORMATION WANTED.

"Well, little one," he answered, "these little birds have been bred and bred and bred from small eggs until some of them would hardly make a good mouthful for you."

The buff Cochin bantams, with their bunt tails, and the rose-combed black ones are great favorites with the youngsters who visit the show.

It is a great gathering of pigeons from the vain fantails, occupying cages in the very centre of the Garden, to the very smallest breed, and they are all in gala attire, too. The little white hens have their skirts trimmed with bands of gray or brown in the latest fashion approved by women, and nature did it all for them. Some of them have ruffs that look exactly like feather boas; others are less pretentiously feathered. The red fantail cocks are winners with the women and children.

The pompous blue pied pouters, which strut about with breasts inflated to such perfection that bicyclists go wild over them and wish they could learn the make of the birds' tire pumps, are the giants of the pigeon pens. They do not cause more merriment, however, than do the short-faced tumblers.

"Do look at this snub-nosed tumbler here," said a jolly woman to another. "Her hair is pompadour, and with her comical expression of arrogance she reminds me of a fat, ugly, pompous woman."

A SUGGESTION FOR MEPHISTOPHELES.

The pigeons on the whole are well behaved. The same cannot be said of the big white Holland and bronze turkeys on the Twenty-seventh street side of the terrace. They have far more curiosity than has the average woman, and poke their heads out and crane their necks around to see what is going on just as much as the average man does when he sees behind a big hat at the opera. Only one goose on exhibition attracts much attention, but there is a jam about its cage from morning until night. This is because this goose has established the reputation of looking like William J. Bryan. The goose brought it all on itself by its everlasting cackling and hissing. It has spilled as many speeches since the show opened as Bryan did on his way from the West to the East when he came to look for the enemy's country. It thrusts its head out from side to side at its audience and never stops making a noise, and it has a queer way of flapping its sides with its wings, as much as to say, "I am the people."

On the whole the show is a great one. It is interesting to watch birds and it is more interesting still to watch the people. They take the exhibited, the exhibitors, and themselves so seriously, but the exhibited cackle to themselves and seem to regard the whole performance as a good joke. Twenty-two of the foxes in a cage before the main entrance. He looks weary, and he has an expression of "So near and yet so far" in his eyes that excites much sympathy.

The first specialty club to meet during the show, the Waterfowl Club of America, held its third annual session in the evening. Messrs. G. P. Rennaud, J. C. Harvey, and H. H. O. Klinker were appointed a committee to secure a greater classification of waterfowl at American shows. Twenty-two members were present. The officers elected were:

President, T. Farrar Rockham; Vice-President, D. A. Mount; Secretary-Treasurer, J. C. Harvey; Executive Committee, G. P. Rennaud, C. F. Newman, F. D. Sanford and J. F. Cleaver.

Some of the poultry awards yesterday follow:

Dark Brahma—Cocks and hens, first and second, Hempstead Farm, Hempstead, L. I.; cockerel, first, Richard Oke; pullet, first, Hempstead Farm.

American Dominique—Cock and hen, first, Dr. H. W. Skerrit, Deansville, N. Y.; cockerel and pullets, first and second, Dr. H. W. Skerrit.

White faced black Spanish cock, first, E. B. Gregory, Edmonton, N. Y.; hen, first, Boston Poultry Yards, Philadelphia, Pa.; cockerel and pullets, first, E. B. Gregory.

Blue Andalusian, hen. First, Clarke and Backham, West Haven, Conn. Cockerel. First, Richard Oke. Pullet. First, Edmund Suelgrove, Port Richmond, N. Y.

Single-comb, white Leghorn, cock and hens. First, Frank L. Edwards, Westville, Conn. Cockerel, First, Whiting Farm, Holyoke, Mass.

Single-comb, brown Leghorn, cock. First, W. W. Kulp, Pottstown, Pa.

Single comb, duckwing, cockerel, and single comb, duckwing pullet. First, J. W. Fiske, Passaic, N. J.

Rose comb, white Leghorn, cock. First, Richard Oke, London, Can. Rose comb, white Leghorn, hen. First, Richard Oke. Rose comb, white Leghorn, cockerel. First, A. Babbitt, Oneonta, N. Y. Pullet. First, A. Babbitt. Rose comb, brown Leghorn, cock. First, Jas. Forsyth. Hen. First, J. Forsyth. Cockerel. First, Kerlin & son, Shenkels, Pa. Pullet. First, Jas. Forsyth.

Black Minorca, hen, first and second, Sanford & Cunningham, Chenango Bridge, N. Y. Cockerel, first, W. Mettler, East Millstone, N. J. Pullet, first and second, J. D. McCormick, Bel Air, Md.

Golden Polish, plain cock, first, Orr's Poultry Yards, Orr's Mills, N. Y. Plain hen, first and second, Orr's Poultry Yards. Plain cockerel, first, J. W. Bruckart, Lititz, Pa. Pullet, first, Orr's Poultry Yards.

White crested black Polish, cock. First, J. W. Bruckart; hen, first, second and third, George J. Basgous, New York city.

Colored Dorking, cock. Second, E. H. Van Atta, Waverly, N. Y.; no first. Hen. First, E. H. Van Atta. Cockerel and Pullets. First, E. H. Van Atta. Silver Dorking, cock. First, Walnut Farm, Coatesville, Pa. Hen, First, John A. Cope, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa. Cockerel. First, Henry Hales, Ridgewood, N. J. Pullet. First, John A. Cope.

Houdan, cock, hen, cockerel, and pullets. First, James Forsyth.

Indian game, Cock and Hen—First, Adam Thompson, Amity, Mo. Cockerel—First, E. B. & W. Ferguson, Fisher's Island, N. Y. Pullet—First and second, Adam Thompson, Amity, Mo.

White Indian Game, Cock—First, W. W. Woodward, Westchester, Pa. Cockerel—First, E. M. & W. Ferguson. Pullet—First, W. W. Woodward, Westchester, Pa.

Pekin (hatched prior to '96), Drakes and Ducks—First, Charles F. Newman, Huguenot, Staten Island, N. Y. Pekin (hatched in '96) Drake—First, Charles F. Newman. Pekin (hatched in '96) Duck—First, B. Collins Edgar, Rahway, N. J.

Rouen, any age, drakes and ducks. First and second, John Brett, Closter, N. J.

Cayuga, drake. First, E. M. and W. Ferguson. Duck. First, R. D. Sutton, Cottons, N. Y.

Golden Seabright bantam, cock. First, Edw. A. Todd, New Haven, Conn. Hen. First, C. H. Proper, Schoharie, N. Y. Cockerel. First, Ira C. Keller, Prospect, O. Pullet. First, S. D. Drury, Northampton, Mass.

Silver Seabright bantam, cock and hens. First, C. H. Proper. Cockerel. First, Ira C. Keller, Prospect, O. Pullet. First, E. B. McAlpin, Sing Sing, N. Y.

Buff Pekin or cochin bantam, cock. First, Charles M. Smith, Brooklyn, N. Y. Hen. First, Charles T. Coraman, Carlisle, Pa. Cockerel. First and second, T. F. McGrew, New York city. Pullet. First, E. Latham, Flatbush, L. I. White Pekin or cochin bantam, cock. First, Harry T. Peters, Islip, L. I. Hen. First, Charles Jehl, New York city. Cockerel. First, Charles Jehl. Pullet. First, Dr. William Y. Fox, Taunton, Mass. Black Pekin or cochin bantam, cock. First, second, and third, David A. Nichols, Monroe, Conn. Hen. First, Pierce Bros., Winchester, N. H. Cockerel. First, David A. Nichols. Pullet. First and second, Dr. William Y. Fox, Taunton, Mass.

Light Brahma, cock. First, Philander Williams, Taunton, Mass. Hen. First and second, Oakland Farm, Taunton, Mass. Cockerel. First, J. W. Shaw, Brockton, Mass. Pullet. First and second, J. W. Shaw.

Black Langshan, cock. First, Kirby & Smith, East Chatham, N. Y. Hen. First, Dr. F. H. Robinson, Pawling, N. Y. Cockerel and pullets. First and second, Dr. F. H. Robinson. Bantam, any other color, cock. First, Bair & Sherman, Castle Creek, N. Y. Hen and pullet. First and second, Kirby & Smith, East Chatham, N. Y.

Barred Plymouth Rock—Cock, first, Charles H. Wells, Stratford, Conn. Hen, first and second, E. B. Thompson, Amenia, N. Y. Cockerel, first, E. B. Thompson. Pullet, first, A. B. Hawkins, Lancaster, Mass.

White Plymouth Rock—Cock, first, Daniel L. Stauffer, Spring City, Pa. Hen and cockerel, A. A. Bailey, Middletown, Conn., first prize. Pullet, first, E. C. Lapetschap, West Point, Pa.

Buff Plymouth Rock—Cock, first, S. E. Gesner, Derby, Conn. Hen, first, Clifford W. Beman, Port Dickerson, N. Y. Cockerel, first, J. A. Wilson, Binghamton, N. Y. Pullet, first, James Forsyth.

Silver Wyandotte—Cock, first and second, A. C. Hawkins, Lancaster, Mass. Hen, first, F. L. Mattison, South Shaftsbury, Vt. Cockerel, first, F. L. Mattison. Pullet, first, second, and third, F. L. Mattison.

Golden Wyandotte—Cock, first, Charles S. Flanders, Concord, N. H. Hen, first, Ira C. Keller, Prospect, O. Cockerel, first, Ira C. Keller. Pullet, first, M. D. Hinds, Port Dickinson, N. Y. White Wyandotte—Cock, first and second, John B. Felt, Somerville, Mass. Hen, first and second, Arthur G. Duston, Marlboro, Mass. Cockerel, first, John B. Felt. Pullet, first, Arthur G. Duston, Marlboro, Mass. Buff Wyandotte—Cock, first, S. E. Gesner, Derby, Conn. Hen, first, C. S. Mattison. Cockerel, first, James Forsyth. Pullet, first, C. S. Mattison. Wyandotte, any other color—Cock, first, Cornell & Brackenberry, Ithaca, N. Y. Cockerel, first, Cornell & Brackenberry. Pullet, first, Ira C. Keller.

Single Comb White Leghorn—Pullet, first and second, Whiting Farm, Holyoke, Mass. Brown Leghorn—Hen, first prize, Chester E. Howell, Elmira, N. Y. Cockerel, first and second, James Forsyth; pullet, first and second, George H. Burgott, Lawton's Station, N. Y. Buff Leghorn—Cock, first, Keystone Poultry Yards, Queens, L. I., N. Y. Buff Leghorn—Cock, first, Aug. D. Arnold, Dillsburg, Pa.; hen, first and second, E. P. Shepherd, Croton Falls, N. Y.; cockerel, first, E. P. Shepherd; pullet, first and second, Aug. D. Arnold, Dillsburg, Pa.

Golden Spangled Hamburg—Cock, first, Richard Oke; hen, first, Charles Eldridge, Rye, N. Y.; cockerel, first, Richard Oke; pullet, first and second, Richard Oke.

Silver Spangled Hamburg—Cock, first, Richard Oke; hen, first, James Mayo, Pittston, Pa.; cockerel, first, Richard Oke; pullet, first, Richard Oke.

Golden Penciled Hamburg—Cock, first and second, Charles Eldridge, Rye, N. Y. Hen, first and second, Richard Oke; cockerel, first, Richard Oke; pullet, first and second, Charles Eldridge.

Silver Penciled Hamburg—Cock and hen, first, Richard Oke; cockerel, first, Charles Eldridge; pullet, first, Richard Oke.

Black Bantam—Cock, first and second, Charles Eldridge; hen, first, Richard Oke; cockerel, first, Newbolt & Preston, Hulberton, N. Y.

EXHIBITION YARDS.

Dark Brahma—First, Hempstead Farm, Hempstead, L. I.

Buff Cochin—First, Oakland Farm, Taunton, Mass.

Black Cochin—First, George E. Wright, Patterson, N. Y.

White Cochin—First, George E. Wright, Patterson, N. Y.

Black Langshan—First, Dr. F. M. Robinson, Pawling, N. Y.

Barred Plymouth Rock—First, E. B. Thompson, Amenia, N. Y.

White Plymouth Rock—First, A. B. Hawkins, Lancaster, Mass.

Buff Plymouth Rock—First, James Forsyth.

White Faced Black Spanish—First, Red Barns Farm, Greenwich, Conn.

White Wonders—First, Red Barns Farm, Greenwich, Conn.

Single Comb White Leghorn—First, Whiting Farm, Holyoke, Mass.

Rose Comb White and Brown Leghorn—First, James Forsyth.

Black Minorca—First, J. W. Mettler, East Millstone, N. J.

Mottled Javas—First, John R. Jones, Suffield, Conn.

Houdan—First, James Forsyth.

Black-breasted Red game—First, F. R. Shaw, Adams, Mass.

Indian Game—First, H. M. Carpenter, Sing Sing, N. Y.

Pekin Ducks—First, Charles F. Newman, Huguenot, S. I.

Buff Cochin Bantam—First, T. F. McGrew, New York city.

Rose Comb Black Bantam—First, Miss Selma Weimers, College Point, N. Y.

Rose Comb Buff Japanese Bantam—First, Harry T. Peters, Islip, L. I.

White Polish Bantam—First, C. H. Proper, Schoharie, N. Y.

Golden Seabright Bantam—First, C. H. Proper, Schoharie, N. Y. Silver Seabright Bantam—First, Ira C. Keller, Prospect, O.

Black-tailed Japanese Bantam—First, Oakland Farm, Taunton, Mass.

Silver Wyandotte—First, F. L. Mattison, South Shaftsbury, Vt. Golden Wyandotte—First, M. D. Hinds, Port Dickinson, N. Y. Silver penciled Wyandotte—First, Cornell & Brackenberry, Ithaca, N. Y. White Wyandotte—First, A. C. Hawkins, Lancaster, Mass. Buff Wyandotte—First, Ira C. Keller, Prospect, O. Buff Wyandotte—First, James Forsyth.

Single Comb Brown Leghorn—First, James Forsyth. Single Comb Buff Leghorn—First, Sara Cornell, Ithaca, N. Y.

PROTECTION FOR SUGAR.

HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

An Additional Duty Urged on All Sugar Testing 75 Degrees and Under—How the Sugar Trust Distributes Its Product—Plea for the Beet Sugar Industry.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The session of the Committee on Ways and Means to-day was given to the question of sugar duties. The opening was given to the sugar importers, whose views were expressed by Mr. John Farr of New York. He said that at a recent meeting of the sugar importers of that city it was unanimously decided that an ad valorem rate of duty was unfair, unreliable and exceedingly difficult in practice; that one cent a pound should be imposed on all sugar below 75° polariscope; and that additional discriminating duties should be levied on all sugars coming from bounty paying countries. Mr. Farr gave the following figures as being the nearest to an ad valorem basis, and as representing fairly all interests:

"On all sugars testing by the polariscope, when landed, seventy-five degrees or under, one cent per pound on net landed weight, adding .03 per degree for each degree up to 100 degrees; fractions of a degree to be assessed in proportion.

"An additional duty on sugars above No. 16 Dutch standard in color, to prevent the foreign refiners from entering their soft refined sugars here at the same rate of duty as raw sugars of the same test."

It was also recommended that an additional discriminating duty be put on all sugars coming from bounty paying countries, with authority to the Executive to reduce or increase this additional duty in such proportion as the bounty paying countries may from time to time raise or lower their bounties.

It was estimated that the average polarization of raw sugars imported into this country is about 92°. Such sugars would pay 1.51 per pound duty, which would produce an annual revenue on this article of about $50,000,000, calculating on importations of about 1,500,000 tons of dutiable sugars, which has been the average for the past few years.

Mr. Solon Humphreys, who represented the sugar trade of New York, said that the new tariff measure should be made on the line of specific duties on sugar. The ad valorem system, he said, was unfair to the merchant, because he never knew what duties he had to pay until the cargo was liquidated; unfair to the Government as a revenue measure, and entirely unreliable. The revenue from sugar two years ago had been about forty-three millions, last year about thirty millions, and he doubted whether this years it would reach twenty-one millions. This decrease of revenue was due not to any falling off in importation, but in the reduction of the invoice prices. He estimated, however, that under the specific rates as advocated by the sugar trade of New York the revenue from sugar would be from forty-nine to fifty millions.

"Would not the cost of sugar," Mr. Evans of Kentucky asked, "be advanced to the consumer?"

"Yes," Mr. Humphreys replied, "but the additional cost would be so inexpressibly small that it would cut no figure in the expenses of a family."

Mr. Evans inquired as to the total importation of sugar from the Hawaiian Islands.

Mr. Humphreys estimated the importation of this year's crop at 150,000 tons, or 10 per cent. of the whole sugar importation of the country.

"We want," he continued, "all the raw sugar that can be used in this country, and we recognize that, unless a difference is made on sugar above No. 16 in color, the importation of refined sugar from abroad will go on increasing very largely, to the detriment of the sugar trade of the United States. We also recommend an additional discriminating duty on all sugars coming from bounty-paying countries. Instead of one-tenth cent a pound on such sugar the additional discriminating duty should be made at least equal to the actual bounty."

F. J. Smith of New York wished to impress upon the committee the difficulty of an ad valorem duty, under which, he said, it was impossible to tell what the rate would be until the sugar was landed. He cited one case where the difference in duty on a cargo amounted to $200, the rate taking place while the sugar was being shipped. It was impossible to land this cargo, and it had to be sent to Liverpool. In this way many sales were lost.

Mr. James D. Hill of New Orleans, on behalf of a committee of the American Cane-Growing Association, asked that the rate of duty on sugar under the act of 1883 be reimposed. Nothing less than that, he said, would be satisfactory.

Mr. Payne inquired as to what the revenue would be if the duty of 1883 was restored.

Mr. Hill calculated that the revenue would be from seventy to eighty million dollars.

Mr. J. Hale Sypher, formerly of Louisiana, gave it as the result of his experience and inquiries that the cost of the Sugar Trust of refining sugar did not exceed one-quarter of a cent a pound, while in Louisiana the cost was about three-eighths of a cent. This, he added, did not include waste.

Mr. Solon Humphreys was asked as to the cost of refining sugar. He disclaimed any personal acquaintance with the matter, but estimated that, with a high grade of raw sugar, the cost would not be far from that stated by Mr. Sypher, ¼ cent a pound; but with a low grade of raw sugar the cost would probably be half a cent a pound, or, as the refiners asserted, ⅜ cent a pound.

Mr. McMillin inquired as to whether sugar refining in this country was not in the hands of the Sugar Trust.

Mr. Humphreys showed a manifest disinclination to go into that matter, saying that members of the committee knew as much about it as he did. Practically, however, he said the Sugar Trust was a combination of all the refineries which had existed at the time of its organization. "But," he added, "since then three or four or five outside refineries have grown up; and if you let the matter alone, I believe that within the next two or three years there will be half a dozen more established."

F. B. Thurber of New York spoke in behalf of the consumers, distributers, and refiners of sugar of the United States. He said that there was no just reason why American sugar interests, whether engaged in production, refining, or distribution, should not be entitled to the same degree of protection as other countries. No other product reaches the consumer in this country with the same small margin of profit to manufacturer and distributer. As a distributer of sugar for many years he had done so at less than the cost of the services rendered. When the organization of the industry aimed to give distributers a commission equivalent to the cost of the service rendered, a cry of combination and monopoly was set up, and was calculated to coerce legislators and courts into favoring chaos instead of justice. At no time has there been a monopoly, and to-day there are four competing refining organizations, with a fifth threatened.

Mr. McMillin.—You have heard the statement of Mr. Humphreys that the cost of refining sugar of a high grade is ¼ cent, and of sugars of low grade about ⅜ cent. Have you any criticism to make on that statement?

Mr. Thurber—My opinion is that there is a large variation in the cost, depending on the saccharine strength.

Mr. McMillin—What are the methods of the distribution of sugar by the American Refining Company?

Mr. Thurber—The distribution of sugar by wholesale is now practically on the commission basis. The sugars are sold with the understanding that a certain commission (about 3-16) is paid to the wholesaler as his profit; and while the American Refining Company will sell sugar to any one who pays its price, he cannot get the benefit of that 3-16 cent commission unless he is bound by that agreement.

Mr. McMillin—Does the sugar refining company require that the sugar shall not be sold below a certain figure?

Mr. Thurber—Yes; that it shall not be sold at less than the manufacturers' list price.

Mr. McMillin—Is payment of this commission made in the form of a rebate when the sale is made, and do those who deal in those goods have to make a statement, before they can get this rebate, that they have not violated their undertaking not to sell below the list price?

Mr. Thurber—Yes: they have so to certify.

Mr. McMillin—And without that they do not get paid for handling the goods?

Mr. Thurber—No, sir.

Mr. McMillin—Suppose that one who handles these goods proposes to sell to another party, is that other party required to carry out the undertaking?

Mr. Thurber—No, sir.

Mr. McMillin—If a wholesale dealer sells to a retail dealer, the retail dealer can do as he pleases?

Mr. Thurber—Yes.

Mr. McMillin—Do refiners who buy raw sugar coming from bounty-paying countries get the benefit of the bounty paid on that raw sugar?

Mr. Thurber—So I understand.

In answer to another question, he said: "I think that ¼ cent a pound differential duty instead of 1-10 cent would approximate what is right."

W. J. McCahan, President of the McCahan Sugar Refining Company of Philadelphia, said that we had now two years and four months of the present tariff, with a protection of ⅛ cent per pound, or about 4 per cent., while beet-growing countries pay a bounty of about ⅝ of a cent, giving foreign refiners of bounty-paying countries about ½ of a cent advantage in our market. This had resulted in 1896 in an increase of about 110 per cent. in imports of refined, against 10 per cent. increased importations of raw, while our refineries have been running less than 60 per cent. of their capacity. He favored an ad valorem duty on sugar, and advocated placing molasses on the free list, it being a by-product of sugar.

Mr. Payne—Have you ever made a calculation as to the cost of refining sugar in your factory?

Mr. McCahan—Yes.

Mr. Payne—And you say that the cost is ⅝ cent a pound on sugar of 96 degrees?

Mr. McCahan—We estimate that.

Mr. McMillin—Do you know of any agreement between independent refineries in the East and in the West and South not to abate prices of sugar in the market?

Mr. McCahan—I do not.

Mr. McMillin—What proportion of the sugar consumed in the United States is produced by the American Sugar Refining Company?

Mr. McCahan—About 70 or 75 per cent.

Mr. McMillin—Is the export bounty which is paid by Germany paid both on raw and refined sugar?

Mr. McCahan—Yes.

Mr. McMillin—Then the American refinery which buys this raw sugar gets the benefit of that bounty?

Mr. McCahan—Yes; but there is a difference in the amount of the bounty. It is 27 cents a hundred pounds on raw sugar and 35 cents on refined.

In answer to a question by Mr. Wheeler as to impurities in German refined sugar, Mr. McCahan said: "I do not know of any impurities put into it, but there are impurities not taken out."

Henry T. Oxnard of Grand Island, Neb., President of the Beet Sugar Association of the United States, spoke on behalf of that industry. The present duty, he said, was not sufficient to protect the industry and to encourage the investment of additional capital. The producers required a duty high enough to place them on a place with foreign competition. Owing to the financial condition, it might not be wise to renew the law of 1883, but the suggestion of 1888 seemed feasible. He favored a duty and a bounty on sugar. Such a schedule, properly adjusted, could be made as nearly fair to all interests as possible, jeopardizing none. It would be made to yield more revenue out of which the bounty can be paid, while it would offer sufficient protection and adequate encouragement to develop the domestic industry.

Mr. Myrick of New York also addressed the committee in the beat sugar interest. He said that it required every pound of the wheat and flour exported by the United States during the past fiscal year to pay for the sugar imported. The total value of all live and dressed beef, beef products, and lard exported during the past year barely equalled the amount paid for imported sugar. Our immense export trade in cotton represents in value only twice as much as our import of sugar. Our vast export of tobacco must be magnified thrice to counterbalance sugar imports. The barley, oats, and rye, fruits and nuts, hops, vegetable oils, oleomargarine, butter and cheese, pork and hams that were exported last year all put together represent in value only two-thirds of the sugar imported. It is an economic crime to compel American farmers to raise staples in competition with the cheap land and labor countries, with which to pay for imported sugar, besides standing the freight and commission both ways. The American farmer demands a fair chance to produce everything our people consume that can be grown in the United States. They want to begin with sugar. They have found by practical experience and scientific tests that from the Hudson River to the Pacific, from the Carolinas to the lakes, they can grow sugar beets as rich or richer in saccharine contents than those of Europe. They want factories established to afford a market for these sugar beets, which they are willing to furnish at from $4 to $5 per ton. At these prices the crop is both a new and profitable one. Every acre devoted to it will by so much reduce the competition in other branches of farming. What stands in the way of the American beet sugar industry is mainly European competition. Europe has developed her beet sugar industry by a liberal system of direct subsidies, high protection and export bounties, until the European beet sugar industry has practically ruined the cane sugar industry of the tropics and monopolized the sugar market of the world. To complete the destruction of the American sugar industry, or at least to prevent the further development of the beet sugar business in this country, Germany has recently increased its export bounty, and France is about to follow suit, thus enabling their sugar to be sold in the United States below the cost of production in this country. What is needed is a reasonable specific duty on all imported sugar, with an additional discriminating duty from countries paying an export bounty, equal to that bounty. Then with such aid as the various States and localities interested may offer to secure sugar factories, the beet sugar industry could be put on its feet in this country within a very few years. If by 1910 the domestic industry supplies the home market as it should, it will be putting into the pockets of our people $200,000,000 a year that otherwise would be sent out of the country.

Thomas R. Cutler of Utah spoke of the detrimental effects of the Hawaiian treaty, results, he said, in this country paying rebates to the contract labor of that country. If we made our own sugar we would give employment to some 250,000 men annually and retain here about $125,000,000 per annum. Utah, he said, felt to a certain extent the hand of the Sugar Trust.

Among the written arguments presented to the Committee on Ways and Means to-day was one by Senator George C. Perkins of California in favor of the imposition of a specific tax of 1½ cents a pound on imported raw sugars. He showed that the consumption of imported sugar by the United States is about 1,700,000 tons a year, all of which can, if the sugar interest is protected, be produced in a few years within our borders. The committee adjourned until to-morrow, when those interested in wood and manufactures thereof, pulp and paper, will be heard.

COTTON GROWERS ASK PROTECTION.

Competition from Egypt Causes Them to Give Up Free Trade Theories.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Dec. 30.—The cotton planters along the Mississippi River in Louisiana and Mississippi and in the Yazoo Valley yesterday selected delegates to go before the Ways and Means Committee at Washington and ask for a duty of three cents a pound on Egyptian cotton imported into this country. Meetings were held by the Vicksburg and Yazoo City Exchanges, and by the planters in Madison, Tensas, and other Louisiana parishes. The demand for protection is based upon the fact that the importation of the Egyptian cotton has ruined the American market for the long staple cotton raised on the alluvial lands of the Mississippi and Yazoo and brought down the price.

The appeal made to Congressman Catchings by the Vicksburg Exchange was:

"We respectfully ask you to go before the Ways and Means Committee in the interest of American growers of long staple cotton and urge upon it a tax on Egyptian cotton, which is not only reducing prices below