

WAITING FOR THE SWAN SONG

VISITORS AT POULTRY SHOW FOOLED BY A JOKER.

Rhode Island Reds Too Attract a Gallery—Chickens Join in New Year's Celebration in Madison Square Garden—Blue Ribbons Well Distributed at Show

While the fishbombs, cowbells and bazookas were noising around Madison Square last night the farmyard champions were crowding out the old year in one discordant chorus on the inside of the Garden. It looked as if every bird and fowl of the male kind knew that Father Time had cut another notch on the eternal post, for they did their best toward the din. Undoubtedly the most passive bipeds at the show were the swans, the two kinds shown being the whistling and Beslecks. Whether it was the work of some practical joker or false book information, a lot of people of both sexes hung around the cages where the swans were enclosed. They watched every movement of the birds and stood around in front of the cages till a hour. Finally some one around asked one of the crowd why they watched the swans so persistently, when one said: "We're waiting to hear the whistling one do a swan song. We were told," the girl added, "that they sing once a year on the last day and that the song is very mournful and beautiful, so we thought it was better to have it to say we heard a swan song than to celebrate on Broadway." One being told that the swan song was more or less of a myth and that swans only sang once in their lives, and that occurred before they died, the party seemed disappointed. They looked at each other and quizzed, and as they were thronged quickly for the main entrance one today said: "My, what fakes."

Early in the day word went round the Garden that a number of the Rhode Island Reds would be shipped to Europe for the use of breeders who intend to establish the breed abroad. Consequently the department occupied by the birds attracted a gallery all day, and those in charge of the exhibits were busy answering questions as to how the breed was developed. One put it tersely that it was an old-fashioned breed under a new cover and that old sea captains and travelers to foreign lands were responsible for the breed. It was said that the sea dogs now and again would bring some birds from other lands, such as Malays, and cross them with the home birds and that more by chance than any scientific method the Reds were developed. When it was found what particular cross produced the correct blue breeders stuck to it. It was by persevering on these lines that this valuable breed was made popular.

In the different classes the blue ribbons were pretty well distributed, but whatever advantage they were reaped with the Tompkins of Concord, Mass. His pullets were found to be the best, and in the single comb and rose comb classes he carried the blues. In other classes he gained four seconds, three thirds, three fourths and five fifths. The other exhibitors were effectively were Watson Westfall, Henry F. Chesborough, Kaufman and Windheim, the Red Feather Farm, Old Acres, William Phillips, Jr., and J. G. Rude & Co. Eight classes of Anconas held their own with the fanciers, and during the week they were never short of crowds around the cages. Five of the blues fell to the lot of H. C. Sheppard of Berea, Ohio, and it was notable that in the class of rose combs, he secured all the ribbons for the cock, hen, cockerel and pullet. In the ordinary class of Ancona hens he gained a first, fourth and fifth. The other breeders to score were Frank W. Mains of Morris Plains, N. J., in two classes, and H. M. Bedford of Strongsville, Ohio, in one class.

A very interesting breed shown were the American Dorkings, and the honors were divided between D. Skerrit of Utica, N. Y., and W. H. Davenport of Colerain, Mass.

It was officially announced that the attendance was the best in the history of the association.

YALE ROWING.

Crew Will Soon Begin Work on Machines in New Boat-house.

NEW HAVEN, Dec. 31.—The crew candidates will be put to work in the Yale boat-house the coming week instead of as in years past spending several weeks on the machines in the Yale Gymnasium. This change of plan has been made possible by the new boat-house, which will be opened for the first time next week.

In developing her varsity crew this year Yale is up against the problem of breaking in practically a green crew. There are but three veteran oarsmen from the crew of 1910 in college, Capt. Frost, who rowed bow, Van Sinderen at No. 3 and Buckingham at No. 6. Of these only two, Frost and Van Sinderen, are certain to try for a place in this year's boat, as Buckingham did not do any rowing last fall.

It is understood that an innovation will be tried in the removal of Van Sinderen from the starboard side of the boat, where he rowed last year, to the stroke position. Capt. Frost will probably retain his old seat at bow, and the other positions in the boat will be filled by men from last year's four oared and freshman crews.

Many former Yale oarsmen are in favor of giving the crew men more chance to try out with other college crews and develop before the race at New London. According to one former crew man who rowed in two victorious crews, Yale would never think of sending a football team onto the gridiron to meet Harvard that had not been developed by games with other colleges, and the same policy could be tried with rowing with equally beneficial results.

A Yale rowing advisory committee consisting of Julian W. Curtis, '79, chairman; Walter Camp, '80, Frederick Allen, '80, H. LeRoy Whitney, '85, W. A. Wodell, '10, will take in charge rowing affairs this year. This committee has just been selected by Capt. Frost to work with him in developing among Yale graduates added interest in this sport and in looking after the boating property. The committee will also decide questions of boating policy, and will plan for outside races if Yale finally consents to row other colleges than Harvard.

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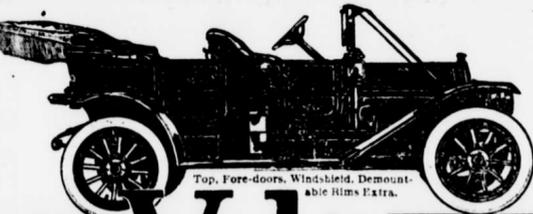
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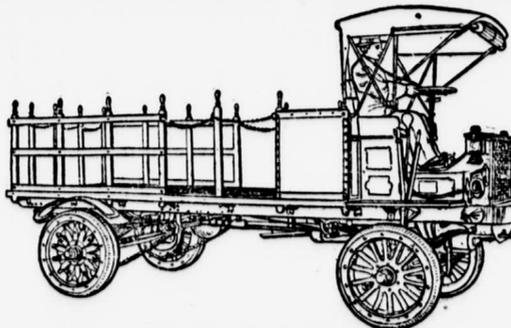
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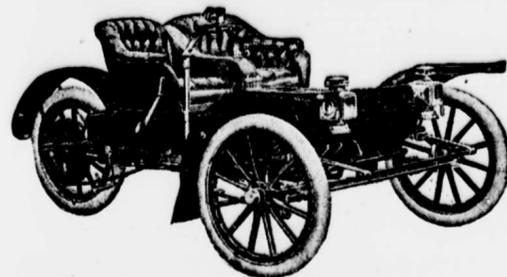
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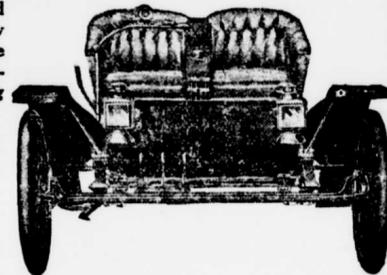
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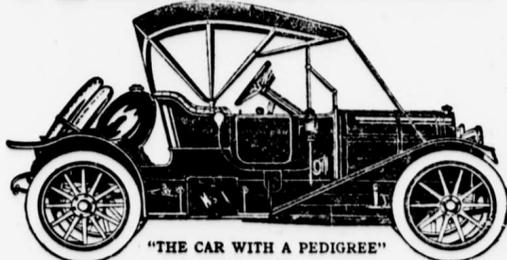
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