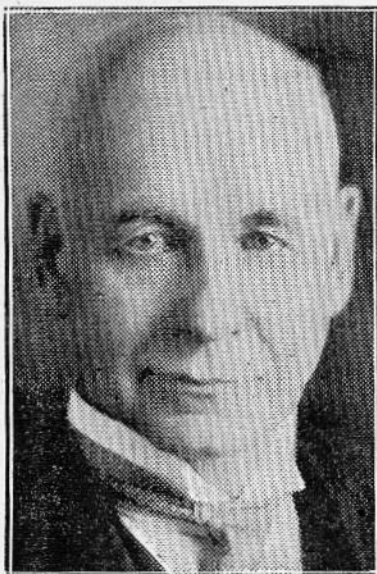


PARTRIDGE CHANTECLERS

Canada's Latest Addition to the Standard of Perfection . .



DR. T. E. WILKINSON

THE ORIGINATOR TELLS HOW HE PRODUCED A FOWL ESPECIALLY SUITABLE FOR CANADIAN CLIMATIC CONDITIONS. PRODUCED IN EDMONTON, AND FORMERLY KNOWN AS ALBERTANS, THEY HAVE BEEN ADMITTED TO THE STANDARD OF PERFECTION AS PARTRIDGE CHANTECLERS.

By DR. J. E. WILKINSON

Criticism, both sincere and shallow, has been passed. One poultryman shot off: "If you want large birds why not raise turkeys?" but table eggs are needed as well as meat. Another man declared: "It's a disgrace to have birds with frozen combs, wattles or toes." Such are still in evidence every winter. A Barred Rock breeder alluded to "Albertans" as the "Mongrels", but a poultryman overhearing him enquired: "What are Barred Rocks but crosses of Cochins, Dominiques, etc.?"

fertility of hatching eggs. Male birds with wattles frozen after getting into drinking water are uncomfortable and sick. Aggregate losses from such causes run into millions of dollars. Earlier efforts were directed into selecting rose-comb varieties. The next logical effort was to produce a new breed possessing pre-conceived characteristics—rudimentary combs, small wattles, abundant feathering, improved breasts, and thighs, for table use, vigorous constitutions and high egg production.

Albertans were produced in Partridge, Red, Black, White, Columbian and Buff. At present they are chiefly only in Partridge with small pens only in Buffs.

EXHIBITED IN ENGLAND

They have been exhibited at every Royal Winter Fair at Toronto except 1924, and have been at World's Poultry Congresses at Ottawa and London, England.

HOW THEY WERE OBTAINED

The first crossings made in 1919 were Partridge Cochin X Partridge Wyandotte and Dark Cornish X Partridge Wyandotte. In 1920 these crosses were mated one to the other and several desired specimens resulted. Later matings had the addition of R.C. Brown Leghorn. At present, 1934, the breed content is practically Partridge Wyandotte, 14; Dark Cornish, 9; Partridge Cochin, 5; and R.C. Brown Leghorn, 4.

From observation of them at the London Congress in 1930, Mr. Ayscough H. Thompson observed:

THE story of starting and fixing a new breed of poultry may be one of fascinating interest to fanciers or utility poultrymen, or again it could be a drab recital of tedious details and disappointments. In actual experience it is both.

At the beginning there was no thought of anything like admission to the American Standard, and if the originator had then known as much about the Standard as he now does, a lot of time and energy could have been saved. This would have had further advantage had geneticists been consulted. The sole object and all considerations were utilitarian.

KNOWN AS ALBERTANS

What the originator considered a new breed was given the name of "Albertans", by which name it has been known for 16 years, or until the American Poultry Association at Danville, Ill., in August, 1935, recognized it as a new Standard variety, to be known as Partridge Chanteclers, a variety of the breed originated by Brother Wilfrid of La Trappe, Quebec, which origination created poultry history as being the first breed originated in Canada. While disappointing, there is much that is logical in this action of the American Poultry Association, in harmony with the principle of requiring definite distinction of breed characteristics with any further introductions.

At an Edmonton Poultry Show in 1914, it was a cruel spectacle to see the swollen frozen wattles and frozen combs of really fine specimens. Farmers and town fanciers alike had losses from frozen combs, wattles and feet, even shanks (the latter chiefly from birds out of condition). This lessened egg production, also in early spring,

Trap-nesting has been conducted, identifying the producers. Two dominating strains are maintained, known to us as No. 100 and No. 42111.

"The Albertans are a large breed, the cock looking to weigh quite 10 lbs., with substance in every direction. The Partridge Albertans are a breed I hope to hear more from over here, feeling sure it is one which would do well in exposed situations. The appearance of both sexes is certainly in their favor, being handsome in the extreme, with the stern Malay head surmounting the massive body and beautiful plumage.

WITH OUR COMPLIMENTS

AS a mark of our esteem we have arranged with the publishers of CANADA POULTRYMAN for you to receive copies of this informative magazine for six months, and trust you may fully enjoy its many interesting features. Please accept this with our compliments.

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