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STANDARD

**Origin and Monography
of the Canadian**

“CHANTECLER”



Home of the “Chantecler” at La Trappe

Fr. M. WILFRID

Poultry Husbandman, Institut Agricole d'Oka

LA TRAPPE, P. Q.

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POULTRY HUSBANDMAN, INSTITUT AGRICOLE D'OKA
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SEPTEMBER, 1919

The Origin and Monograph of the Canadian Hen "Chantecler"

Almost every country possesses its different breeds of poultry, and, in most cases, the breed kept is one which suits the demand of the locality, whilst at the same time being adapted to the climate of that particular country, and, for this reason, to a certain extent, we have an explanation of the numerous breeds of poultry existing to-day and also of the difficulty, even the impossibility of tracing their origin which in some cases amount to mere supposition. For the origin of recent breeds of which we have as it were the pedigree, these difficulties do not exist. Some of these new creations have been formed after some preconceived idea, with some practical ends in view; others are simply fancy modifications of an already existing breed, whilst finally we have the crossing of different breeds from which has arisen a new type, more suitable to the demands of the country to which they belong. Without the slightest doubt, we find that some breeds, though bearing a very high reputation in their own country have proved to be very poor outside of their place of origin, and one is inclined to believe that for poultry as well as for all living beings, in order to obtain their maximum development, that no place suits them better than their native soil, from where they originated.

We have in Canada, undoubtedly, some excellent breeds of poultry which are giving excellent results; but they are lacking in one important point: **they are not Canadian.**

Ever since I have been interested in poultry, I have always regretted that in Canada we did not have our own "Canadian Hen" to correspond with our distinguished breed of cattle and horses; and I have always been under the impression that a breed of poultry of truly Canadian origin and formation, poss-

essing on one side the good qualities of existing breeds already in our country, whilst on the other hand improved in order to withstand our severe winter, then I say, that such a breed would be appreciated by all Canadian poultrymen.

I may here mention that some ten years ago, I made an attempt at my ideal, the Canadian Hen that exists to-day, and I feel sure that after distinguishing herself so remarkably here, I am confident of her leading the way all over the country in future.

The history of my bird is not by any means an enigma ; it is already known fairly well, thanks to the pen of Mr. Toupin, Secretary of the "Association of the Chantecler Breeders" which association was formed in March, 1918.

Moreover, in the month of January last an exhibition of this new breed was held at Montreal. Over 300 specimens were exhibited, out of this number only 18% were not up to the Standard, results which I consider very good if we bear in mind that the American Poultry Association only calls for 50% up to the Standard before accepting a new breed in its Standard.

Before giving a description of the new breed, it would perhaps be interesting to touch upon its origin and the causes of its development.

As I have already stated, my ideal was to be really practical and truly Canadian, at the same time possessing something beyond the ordinary, but bearing no fancy exaggeration such as to be found in the white face of the Spanish Hen example, for, indeed, I was aiming at something more practical than mere outside appearance to please the eye.

Knowing by experience how the combs of our birds were the cause of such severe losses during winter, I was determined to reduce the comb to a minimum and wattles in proportion. As for plumage, I considered white the best colour to adopt.

Furthermore, I wanted to produce a general purpose bird, a good winter layer, and, at the same time, a bird capable of put-

ting on flesh when consigned to the fattening pen. To me, such a bird was far more advantageous than our smaller breeds possessing only the laying capacity or to our large breeds to a great extent only useful for fattening.

My ideal being fixed, knowing what I desired, but not possessing the power of creating something from nothing, I considered a judicious crossing of the best breeds, as far as eggs and flesh were concerned, was the best course to venture.

Knowing that the severity of our winter required something vigorous and rustic, it seemed to me that in the Cornish I had a subject which was capable of transmitting to my future stock the qualities I was looking for, as far as general conformation was concerned, namely vigour and, last but not least, the comb and wattles.

The next thing was to find a bird which would pass on its laying qualities, and here I could not do better than to adopt the White Leghorn; whilst the Rhode Island Red, Wyandotte and Plymouth Rock, in my estimation were most likely to help in obtaining winter layers.

In 1908, my plans were executed, when I made two different matings: one being a cross between a dark Cornish cock and a White Leghorn, the second, between a Rhode Island cock and a White Wyandotte.

A point to note: the hens in these two first crosses are white, colour which I desired for the new breed, and this conformably to a principle which many contest—the reason I don't know—and which I previously found to be true. I again reaffirm that the female gives the colour and the male the shape.

The result of my first mating gave me a bird of a greyish colour, with feathers very short, closely set to body, and of slender shape, whilst the head showed neither comb nor wattles. My Rhode Island and Wyandotte crossing was different in colour, the white dominated, but with a splashing of grey and

black. It was amongst these birds I was awarded with a beautiful cock, a real Columbian Wyandotte.

In the spring of 1909, I picked out the whitest pullets from my Cornish-Leghorn crossing, putting with them my beautiful Columbian-Wyandotte cock. From this crossing, I got a variety of colour: some of a dirty-grey, some speckled. In general character, a few of them resembled the Leghorn or Rhode Island, but, in the great majority, the Cornish predominated.

In 1910, I carefully selected all the pullets which came the nearest in colour, form, comb and wattles to my ideal in view, and these were mated with a very fine White Plymouth Rock, weighing $9\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.; from this, the colour was greatly improved, but with regard to the general conformation and laying capacity, I was very much disappointed.

Perseverance being the mother of success, I continued my undertaking, each year making a judicious selection of my birds, retaining only those of desired form and good laying records. After following this course for three years, I began to find a remarkable change in my flock; the colour was almost uniform, the laying capacity had increased considerably, the comb and wattles were disappearing and the birds had proved to be very vigorous and active.

Everything was most encouraging, and though it had cost me already five years of hard work, always keeping my ideal in view, I considered myself paid.

Taking advantage of the good results of 1913, I decided to make two different flocks. With one of these flocks I practised inbreeding to a certain extent, whilst I introduced new blood into the other, in the shape of a fine Wyandotte cock, from which I obtained a fine lot of graceful birds, compact and shorter in body. I continued selecting from these year after year, and in 1916 my flock was so uniform, the egg-yield so remarkable, that I considered I had almost struck my mark.

I say **almost**, for one point was weak, the weight of the birds

not having reached what I had set down for them, a matter which I considered very important, for, remember, I was looking for flesh as well as for eggs.

In the summer of 1916, I perhaps received my greatest reward when, at the age of seven months, a pullet turned the scale at $7\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. and turned also to be a wonderful winter layer, giving me 91 eggs in the four months of November and December, 1916, January and February, 1917.

With this new arrival, my hopes for the future were renewed. I then aimed at increasing the weight of my flock, and to do so, I mated my remarkable pullet with a beautiful White Plymouth Rock cock, weighing ten pounds, and though I was quite confident in throwing more volume in my new stock by this action, at the same time I did not fear lowering the egg-yield, and so it happened.

All the finest cockerels from this mating were kept, and the following spring were put at the head of the two strains of hens which I had selected up-to-date. From this mating, I must account for a number of single combs; but this defect in a few, I considered a trifle in comparison with the pronounced improvement shown in the majority.

The "Chantecler," of course, is not free from the atavistical law; hence the necessity of a constant and severe selection.

I now considered my breed established enough in its principal characters to present to the Poultry World, and the results obtained here and elsewhere by Members of the Association who have taken up the new breed such enthusiasm prove that I was not too daring in presenting such an improvement.

In short, the "Chantecler," embracing as she does the five best breeds of poultry in this country and bearing all their aptitudes, though excelling them in activity and hardiness, the direct results of having been bred in her own country, can now make her way in the rank and file and prove her superiority in the Poultry World.

General Character

MALE.

Head.—Short, large skull, indicating a strong constitution.

Beak.—Stout, slightly curved.

Eyes.—Medium size, almost round, with a bright expression.

Comb.—Cushion-shaped, rather small, set firm on the fore part of the head; the front and rear square and not with any point, level surface, smooth and not covered with small round points.

Wattles and Ear-Lobes.—Rather small, of a smooth texture. Ear-lobes oval shape, wattle almost round.

Neck.—Medium length, slightly arched, becoming smaller near the head; hackle abounding, flowing well over shoulders with no apparent break of cape.

Wings.—Well folded, the points of flights well covered by saddle feathers.

Back.—Long broad in its entire length; slightly curving at bottom of tail. Saddle feathers abundant.

Tail.—Of medium length, carried at an angle of 45 degrees above the horizontal. Sickles of medium length, slightly extending beyond the main tail feathers which can be seen through.

Breast.—Large, deep, well rounded, prominent.

Fluff.—Short and full.

Body.—Long, large. (Feathers closely set to body).

Legs and Toes.—Thighs of medium length, large, well covered with soft feathers. Toes straight, four in number for each leg.

HEN.

Head.—Short, small, with large skull, same as rooster.

Beak.—Stout, strong, slightly curved.

Eyes.—Medium size, almost round.

Comb.—Cushion-shaped, very small, level surface, smooth and not covered with small rounded points, square at the front and rear.

Wattles and Ear-Lobes.—Very small, scarcely perceptible.

Neck.—Medium length, arched, becoming smaller near the head.

Wings.—Well folded and of medium length.

Back.—Long, broad at shoulders, slightly sloping near the saddle and slightly curving near the tail.

Tail.—Medium length, carried at an angle of 45 degrees above the horizontal.

Breast.—Large, full, well rounded, prominent.

Body.—Long, large. (Feathers closely set to body).

Fluff.—Short and full.

Legs and Toes.—Thighs of medium length, well covered with soft feathers, shanks of medium length, fare and well set apart. Toes, straight, of medium length.

COLOUR IN BOTH SEXES.

Beak.—Yellow.

Eyes.—Reddish bay.

Comb, Face, Wattles and Ear-Lobes.—Bright red.

Plumage.—Snow white.

Shanks.—Yellow.

DISQUALIFICATIONS.

Specimens having any of the following defects are subject to disqualification.

White in ear-lobes.

One or more feathers foreign to the breed.

Comb that is not cushion-shaped.

Legs any other colour than yellow.

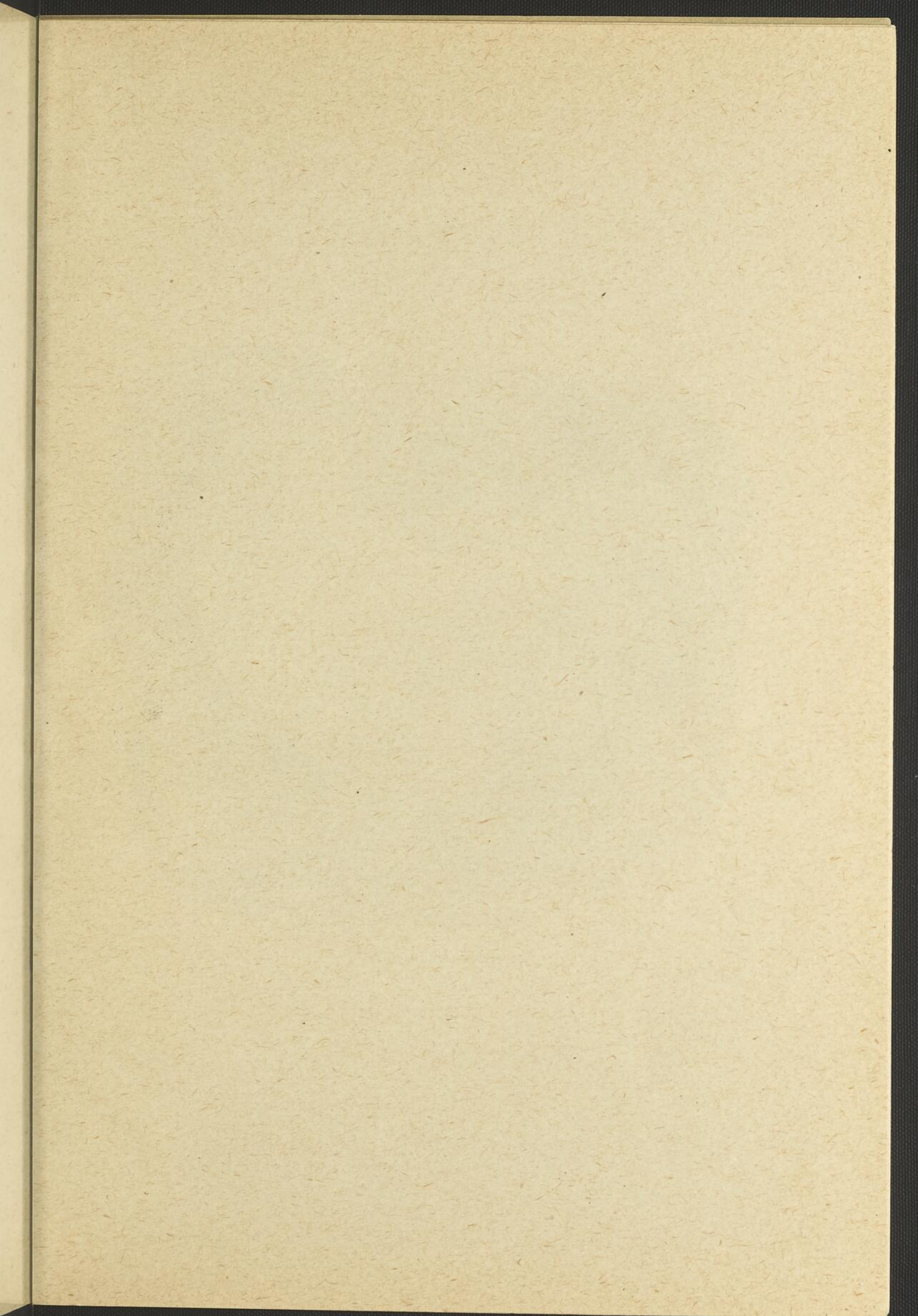
One or more feathers or unmistakable indication of feathers on shanks and toes.

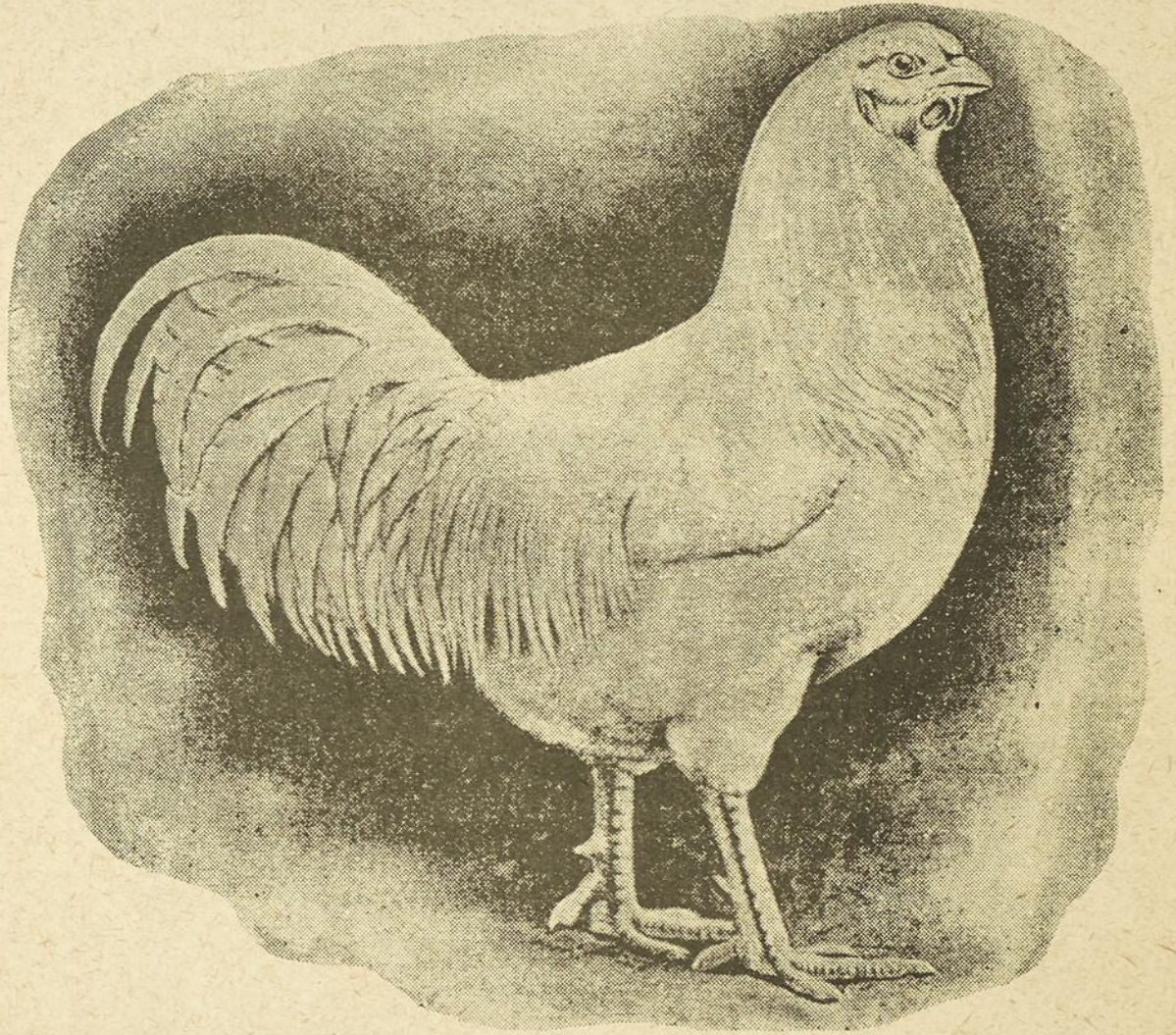
Wry tail and any other deformity inherrent to other breeds.

STANDARD WEIGHT.

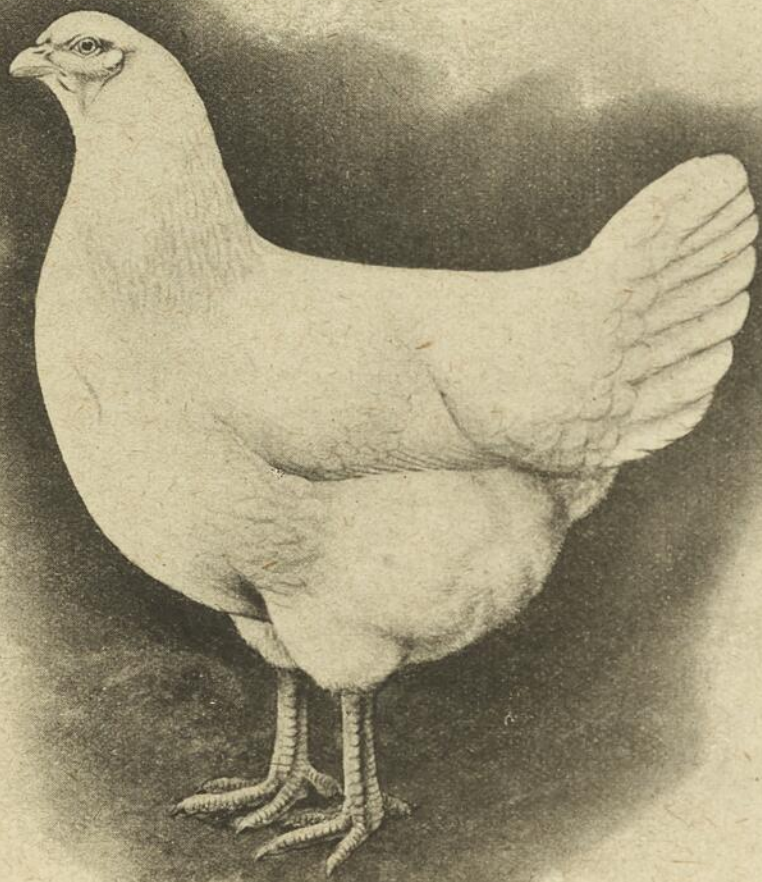
Cock 9 lbs. Hen 7 lbs.

Cockerel 8 lbs. Pullet 6½ lbs.

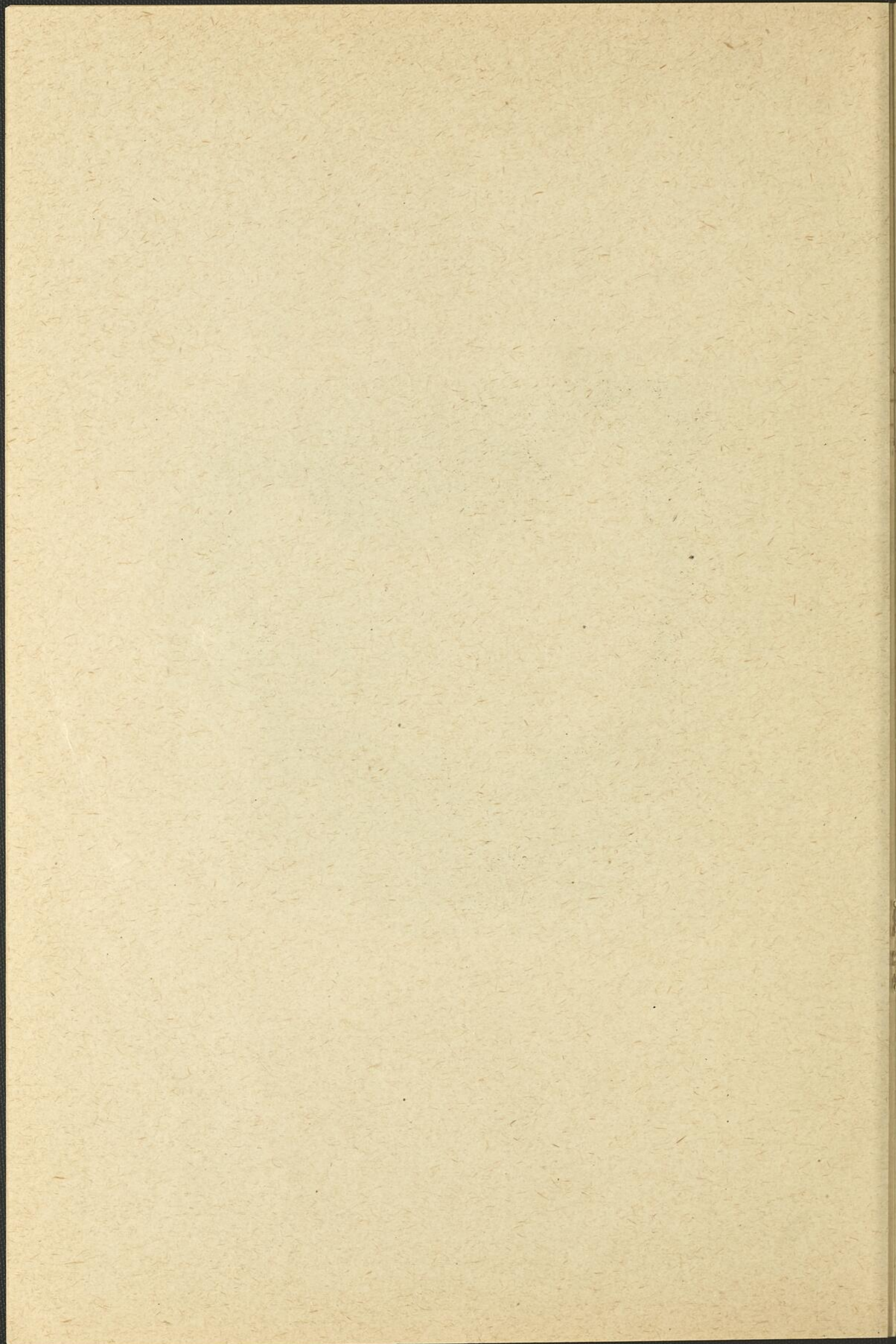




Cock "Chanteoler"



Hen "Chantecler"



SCALE OF POINTS.

Symmetry		4 points
Weight	4	“
Condition	4	“
Comb	2	“
Head	Shape 4; colour 2	6 “
Beak	“ 2 “ 2	4 “
Eyes	“ 2 “ 2	4 “
Wattles and Ear-lobes ..	“ 4 “ 2	6 “
Neck	“ 5 “ 3	8 “
Wings	“ 3 “ 3	6 “
Back	“ 6 “ 3	9 “
Tail	“ 5 “ 3	8 “
Breast	“ 6 “ 3	9 “
Body and Fluff	“ 6 “ 3	9 “
Legs and Toes	“ 3 “ 4	7 “

100 points

STANDARD OF THE CHANTECLER.

The gallinaceous breeds and their numerous varieties have all different exterior characters. The specific distinction of these characters which go to form the ideal type is called: **Standard.**

It is easily understood right away that it is not an easy matter to establish a standard which is strictly exact, adapted to maintain in the best fit course the breed or variety so as to assure the permanence of its character.

The famous "American Poultry Association," founded at Buffalo, N.Y., U.S.A., in the month of February, 1873, and who, the following year, edited the first Standard which was then called "Standard of Excellence," and later "Standard of Perfection," has thought it necessary to revise it every five years. This Standard which gives the description of almost every breed known in Poultry, therefore admits of some improvements in these different breeds, even in the most ancient ones whose characters one would think as perfectly fixed. The ideal perfection does not exist, not even amongst poultry; it is in the natural order as well as the atavistical law.

The Standard of the Chantecler, which I am offering here to the fanciers of this new breed, has not the pretention to say the last word of the improvement which awaits it. Changes will necessarily occur in the future, more or less notable, consequence of a more extended breeding and fortuitous causes, impossible to foresee. It lays down, to speak the truth, but the principal indications which, nevertheless, I hope will produce happy results in the hands of those who will have it at heart of inspiring themselves seriously in their breeding.

It might not be displaced to remark that a standard is neither the description of a certain specimen, nor that of a flock in general, but that of an ideal or perfect bird.

A flock, no matter to what breed it belongs, will be so much the more perfect that the individuals which compose it resemble the more to the standard type or ideal. The perfection which is possible is not obtained in one bound; it is obtained above all by work and selection.

“LA CHANTECLER” AS A SPORTING BREED.

The breeding of thoroughbred fowls, exclusively in view of exhibitions, has for principal object to carry ad summum the exterior characters, worrying little about the productive qualities of the specimens. This is a great deficiency; but, on the other hand, it has the inappreciable advantage to preserve the true type by improving and maintaining it in its perfection by way of selection.

“La Chantecler,” we have seen by its history, has not been formed in view of sports, but that of a practical utility. Nevertheless, it does not seem too rash to claim that it could be shown to advantage at the exhibitions: the “Kingston Fair” will answer this question. “La Chantecler” will have there a special pavilion of its own, thanks to Mr. Bushell, the worthy Secretary, Manager, etc., of the Kingston Industrial Exhibition, who has allowed it free of entry fee and has made a special class for this first Canadian breed.

The variety of the gallinaceous breeds, the diversity of their colours and shapes offer an ample choice to the particular taste of the fanciers.

Each of these breeds or varieties have points of colour or shape which are very hard to obtain; once obtained, these points give a great value to the birds who possess them. This is the field left opened to the sagacity of the amateur.

The ideal for the amateur of the “Chantecler” would be therefore to obtain for his favorite a comb and wattles reduced

to the minimum, a spotless white plumage, an elegant shape of body.

As in every other breed, if the cock shows a certain defect, this defect should be balanced by an exaggerated corresponding quality on the hen, and vice versa.

To obtain nice Chantecler specimens, subject to be prized at an exhibition, one must mate hens of a spotless white plumage with cocks as white as possible and approaching for shape the nearest to the Standard type; they should, moreover, have a comb and wattles as small as possible.

The cock should carry its tail 35 degrees above the horizontal instead of 45 degrees.

Cockerels very precocious are rarely fit specimens for exhibition.

PRACTICAL ADVICE.

The new hen "Chantecler," although having its characteristics well established, would degenerate quick enough if the breeding is not made carefully and if the breeders do not keep in mind the ideal type described in this Standard, or would not try to approach it as near as possible.

We should not use for breeding purposes:

Any male approaching by shape the Wyandotte type;

Any male having a rose-comb, or pea-comb too much developed; also wattles;

Any cockerel which at the age of five months would not weigh 5 lbs.;

Being admitted that the hens transmit the colour, we should only use those of a spotless white plumage;

Any hen, the same as the cock, having a rose-comb or a pea-comb of an excessive development.

The Canadian Chantecler Breeders' Association

Before introducing the Chantecler to the public, provisory rules were enacted, amongst which was the obligation of a General Show to which all breeders had to bring all the birds they had raised in order to make a judicious and severe selection. The Show was held in Montreal in January, 1918, and turned to a percentage of 82% of typical birds.

Then came the idea of a regular Association. Over 50 members were immediately inscribed, and in March, 1918, the Association had doubled in number.

The Association accounts now over 300 members.

The titulars of the Association are the following:

Honorary President: The Hon. J. Ed. Caron, Minister of Agriculture, Quebec.

Honorary Vice-President: Rev. Bro. Liguori, Chief of the Poultry Service, Quebec.

Active President: A. A. Lapointe, Esq., President of the Montreal Poultry Association.

Vice-President: Alb. Heroux, Esq., B.S.A., Professor, Agricultural Institute of Oka.

Directors: Raoul Dumaine, Assistant Poultry Husbandman, at Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa; Dr. Sylvio Lafortune, President Quebec Provincial Poultry Association, Pointe Gatineau, Que.; C. Toupin, Inspector of Cheese Factories, Quebec, St. Isidore, Laprairie; L. A. Lapointe, M.P., St. Jacques, Montreal; J. L. Bonneville, St. Remève, Que.

Secretary-Treasurer: Gust. Toupin, B.S.A., Agricultural Institute of Oka.

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer: Gregoire Matte, B.S.A., La Trappe, Que.

Technical Adviser: Rev. Bro. Wilfrid, of the Institute, and Originator of the Chantecler.

The question of incorporation of the Association is now pending before the Department of Agriculture of Ottawa and, it is hoped, the Act of Incorporation will be a fact shortly.

RULES AND REGULATIONS
of the
CANADIAN CHANTECLER BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION.

I.

“The Canadian Chantecler Breeders' Association” is the legal name of the Association, whose central office is now at the Agricultural Institute of Oka, La Trappe, P.Q., but can be at any other place the Board might decide upon, where general Records and Registration books are kept.

II.

The aim of the Association is:

- I.—To keep records of origin, breeding and pedigree of the “Chantecler” breed;
- 2.—To carefully note its developments and results and make them public for breeding purposes;
- 3.—To promote its breeding and help breeders to secure its characteristics in their entirety.

III.

The fiscal year, for the payment of the annual fee as well as for giving up of accounts, corresponds to the calendar one.

IV.

Members are of four categories:

- 1.—**Honorary Members.** The title is simply honorific and confers no deliberative power. It is granted by the Association at its annual meeting.

2.—**Life Members.** They are those who pay \$10.00, once for all, and those whose services have remarkably helped the Association. The title is also granted by the Association at its annual meeting.

3.—**Annual Members.** They are all persons, corporations, firms, associations or legal body whatever, paying an annual fee of \$2.00.

4.—**Joint Members or Benefactors.** They are those who pay an annual fee of \$1.00. They are entitled to the same privileges as the annual members, registration of birds and experimental competition excepted.

V.

Life and Annual Members are sole entitled to the registration of their birds, according to the rules made to that effect.

VI.

Members' responsibility is limited to the amount of their regular fee.

VII.

Any member, as well as the Association itself, is bound to comply with the by-laws, rules, regulations of the Association.

No essential change can be made to this Constitution unless it is approved of by the Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa, and has been made in due form.

VIII.

Anyone can leave the Association, provided he gives notice to the Secretary and pays the arrears due.

IX.

The Association has full power to settle matters concerning admission, resignation, suspension and expulsion of members whatever they are.

X.

The Association is governed by a Board of Directors, namely; a President, two Vice-Presidents and four Directors, yearly elected in January, at the date fixed by the Board for holding said annual meeting.

The Secretary and the Technical Adviser are also appointed at said meeting.

XI.

The Board is bound to give yearly, at the annual meeting, a full statement, duly verified by a competent auditor, of all financial operations and dealings made during the year.

XII.

Rules and Regulations, in as much as they are not concerned in their essential scheme, can be amended by the majority of the members of the Association.

XIII.

When a vacancy comes in the Board, either by resignation or otherwise, the Board can appoint a new member at its private meeting.

XIV.

Time and place of the meetings of the Board are notified by the Secretary, at the request of the President or of three members of the Board, and such notice ought to be given at least 10 days before said meeting and must contain the object of such meeting. No other subject than those mentioned in said notice can be put before the Board in the absence of one of the Directors.

REGISTRATION OF THE BIRDS.

XV.

Life and Annual Members only are entitled to the registration of their birds, so also to contest for the laying capacity of the birds.

The Association appoints a Superintendent for such laying contest.

XVI.

He who wants to enter this contest must notify the Secretary of the Association when the intended competing pullets are four months old. The Secretary hands then a card to the proprietor for each competing pullet, which card, having been duly signed is returned to the Secretary within five days after receipt.

XVII.

Pullets are tested by means of trap-nest.

XVIII.

As soon as they start laying, the Secretary must be notified.

The last day of the contest, the laying record is sent to the Secretary and entry is duly made by him on the inscription sheet of the bird.

XIX.

At any time, the Association can examine the flocks and can eliminate birds which have not proved possessing the standard qualifications, to wit: having layed 50 eggs before March 1st, and 150 eggs before the first of November following the year of birth, and possessing, at least, the hen, 80%, the cock 90% of the points for conformation.

XX.

At the end of the test, the committee of registration delivers to the proprietor a certificate for the bird that has proved to be in conformity to the true Chantecler type.

XXI.

A permanent Committee of Registration, to wit: the Technical Adviser, the Secretary, and two other members of the Board might appoint, will care for the registration of the birds and the performance of the laying contest.

XXII.

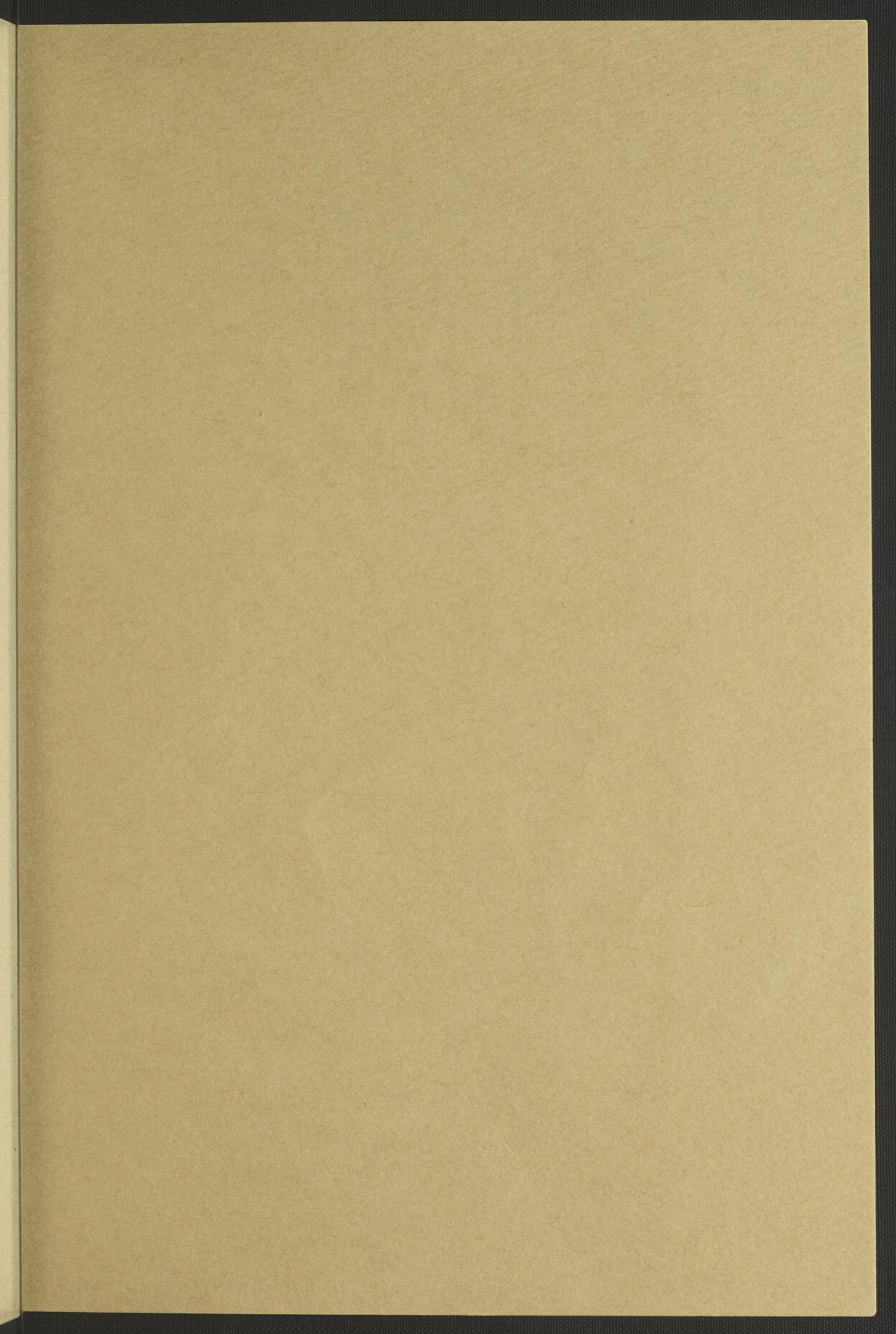
He who signs or sends, or causes to sign or to be sent to the Registrar of the Association, a declaration or petition for registration of a Chantecler bird, knowing it to be false or fraudulent in connection with age, colour, breed or pedigree of such bird, is guilty of an infraction to the present law and passible, after conviction before the Board of the Directors, of a fine of not less than \$100.00 and not more than \$500.00, provided such information is made within two years from the date of the commission of such fraudulent act.

The Board can pronounce in the same time the suspension or expulsion of the member incriminated.

XXIII.

Such fine can be prosecuted before two Justices of the Peace, or before a Magistrate having such power in virtue of Part XV. of the Criminal Code of Canada.

P.S.—The incorporation of the Association is pending before the Department of Agriculture of Ottawa, and will be a fact shortly.



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