

FOWLS AND PET STOCK IN ANNUAL EXHIBIT

New Breeds in All Classes of Madison Square Garden Show.

EGYPTIAN AND CHINESE GEESE

Ducks from Australia—Davenport's

Farm's Display a Feature—Cats to be Benched To-day.

Madison Square Garden resounded yesterday with a medley of cries of fowl of every description, assembled to take part in the Sixteenth Annual Exhibition of the New York Poultry, Pigeon and Pet Stock Association, which will occupy the huge building during the remainder of the week. The annual exhibitions of the Atlantic Cat Club and the New York Ornithological Society are also being held, the cat show beginning to-day and closing on Friday.

The exhibits of poultry and pet stock number over 4,500, the largest total in the history of the association. In consequence of the large number of exhibits it has been necessary to arrange the poultry cages in tiers on the main floor and to place all the pigeons and pet stock in the galleries. The song birds are placed in the concert room upstairs, and the cats in the restaurant, in the southwest corner of the building, on the main floor.

To the general the exhibits, which will prove most interesting are those of jungle fowl from Davenport's Farms. These include many specimens of valuable East Indian pea fowl and peacocks, numerous variety of pheasants, jungle fowl of several kinds, Guinea fowl, wild turkeys, and a large display of the rarer breeds of geese and ducks. Among the geese are Egyptian and Chinese varieties, and the ducks include some from Australia. There are also cages of Angora goats, Damoselle cranes, and Victoria crown pigeons, the last named being large birds with very peculiar head plumes.

Features of the poultry show this year which have not been seen in several years are, the entries of large classes of Pekin ducks and drakes and Favorelle cocks and hens. The Pekin ducks were first entered in competition some five years ago, and marked the beginning of a rush of fanciers to breed them, which became almost as much of a craze as the breeding of Belgian hares. There were no other entries, however, until this year, when a dozen or more exhibitors, having improved the breed, have entered large classes.

The Favorelles formerly were not entered to a large extent, as they are not hardy birds, and transporting them in the winter frequently caused them to die. The breed has been strengthened noticeably, however, and now numerous entries have been made.

Over 600 different exhibitors have birds in the various poultry, pigeon, and pet stock classes, including a large number from Canada, and all through the Eastern States. A number of entries have also been received from as far West as St. Louis and Chicago. Among the exhibitors, who breed only for pleasure and competition, and not for a business, are Fred Alger, Waukau, Wis.; Fred A. Andrews, London, Canada; B. K. Barker, Toronto, Canada; Joseph F. Bardroft, Washington, D. C.; J. R. Boyce, London, Canada; W. Dunlop Disston, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia; Dr. W. A. Gibson, Jackson, Mich.; George B. Hart, Baltimore, Md.; C. N. Hansen, Warsaw, Ky.; D. H. Jenkins, Indianapolis, Ind.; George Carey Lindsay, Baltimore, Md.; Dr. Charles A. Meyer, Baltimore, Md.; Robert Treat Paine, Jr., Boston, Mass.; C. Schaefer, Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. E. Turner, Baltimore, Md., and H. Wallace, London, Canada.

The pigeons are better represented this year than ever before. There are fifty per cent. more carriers and barbs shown than at any previous show and the quality, it was said, is higher than at any previous exhibition. The exhibition of pet stock is also larger than usual. There are many classes of rabbits, including the Belgian hares, Angoras, and the Flemish Giant varieties. The covies include the Peruvians, Abyssinians, English and many of the long-haired breeds.

The exhibition of song birds includes all of the many varieties of Belgian canaries, in their colors of yellow, buff, buff mottled, yellow green and buff green, as well as the Yorkshires, coppies, Norwich, rollers and Lizards. A large class of goldfinch mules is also shown and there are besides, European finches, goldfinches, bullfinches, gray linnets, shell parakeets, chaffinches, siskins, minos, parrots, blackbirds, thrushes and African finches. Among the exhibits of canaries are two birds, not entered for competition, which on November 6, 1903, won the gold medal at the Paris exhibition, for the best pair in Europe. They arrived in this country too late to compete here. The male bird brought 300 francs at Paris and the female 200 francs.

The exhibit of cats promises to be exceptionally interesting, as of over 200 entries, seventy-five are first prize winners at previous shows of the Atlantic Cat Club and at other shows. The class of blue females consists entirely of prize winners, and the four finest Chinchillas in the country are entered in their class. One of them, Bitterne Chiffon, owned by Mrs. James B. Conlisk of Gowanda, N. Y., is valued at over \$1,000, that price being refused for her at a recent show at Rochester. The snort-haired cats, of which there will be a number, are especially large, some of them weighing over twenty pounds. It has been the custom for only a few of the best tortoise-shell cats to be exhibited, but this year there will be eighteen of them shown. The blacks, of all kinds, long haired and short haired, are to be shown three times as plentifully as heretofore. During this show the Hofstra trophy, given by Mrs. W. F. Hofstra for the best cat in the show, will be awarded.

Judging in the various classes began yesterday and is likely to continue during the remainder of the week, as there are over 850 classes to be decided. The judging is tiresome and generally lengthy, owing to the care with which the judges have to examine the fowl. The birds are taken from the cages and examined as to comb, feathers, eyes, feet, and general appearance. As soon as the awards are made, the ribbons indicative of the winnings, blue for first, red for second, and yellow for third, are placed on the cages. This gives a brighter appearance to the rows of cages.

A number of annual meetings of various breeding clubs are scheduled to be held during the week. Among them are the American Jacobin Club, American White Wyandotte Club, National Bantam Association, American Turbit Club, American Silver Penciled Wyandotte Club, American Light Brahma Club, and National Single Comb White Leghorn Club.

EQUITABLE LIFE'S YEAR.

Total Assurances Now \$1,500,000,000—

1904 Increase, \$90,000,000.

The preliminary statement for 1904 of the Equitable Life Assurance Society shows that the company's outstanding assurances now amount to \$1,500,000,000 and that the increase for the year was fully \$90,000,000. Its assets now reach a total of \$410,000,000, an increase of \$29,000,000.

The surplus is \$78,000,000, \$5,000,000 greater than it was at the close of last year. The annual income now amounts to \$78,000,000, a large increase over the income in 1903. The total payments to policy holders were \$37,000,000.

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