

mens, and after some discussion it appeared the majority of judges present upheld Judge Griffin in his decision. Mr. Vandeweghe, New York, gave a very interesting talk on furs at the Conference explaining to the breeders and judges just what is wanted in a good furred rabbit.

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

On November 25th to 28th, 1936, we held our Annual Convention at Ft. Wayne, Ind., and it proved a very successful one. Five years have passed since that time and our industry along with other industries have had a hard time to keep in existence. However, we have pulled through and the outlook today is better than it has been for years. Instead of trying to locate markets for our new members, as we did several years past, our great work today is to secure more breeders and more production in both rabbits and covies. Each individual member can do his share in this work by inducing his neighbor to take up rabbits or covies. Hundreds in cities and towns have available space doing them no good whatsoever that could be utilized for this purpose at a profit with a lot of pleasure for the entire family. The demand is good, skin prices higher than they have been for years and I see no reason why conditions for our industry should not continue to improve for several years to come.

In many sections, there are no meat rabbits available as the laboratories are taking all the surplus and at times cannot secure their requirements. Unless we can get more breeders interested, we are not going to have enough to furnish laboratories in some sections of the country to say nothing about meat markets this winter. Every breeder should try to induce his neighbor to enter our industry and help to increase production. We are making some progress, but we need many more to take up this healthy, interesting and last but not least profitable work. Many are going in for Angora woolers and there is a bright future ahead for this phase of the industry.

The A. R. & C. B. A. made considerable gain in memberships during the past year but there is still room for improvement. Too many, I am afraid, join the A. R. & C. B. A. to get the Guide Book and Standard (which is worth much more than the price of membership), then drop out until another is issued. Resolution #3 offered this year, if it passes, may overcome this and help us to keep our membership up. Every member should try and secure a new member whenever possible. Secretaries of locals, judges and registrars should do likewise whenever the opportunity presents itself.

The advertising done by our Marketing Committee the past year did us much good and while not directly in securing members, it has placed us in touch with hundreds who never knew there was such an industry. Over 9,000 booklets were sold through this advertising and most of these were mailed out on single orders. During the height of our advertising, I received 60 to 90 inquiries daily for these booklets. These come from a new field and many questions asked relative to our association and industry. The cost of this advertising (amounting to several hundred dollars) was taken out of The Marketing Committee Fund which was derived by a few donations from members and local associations, advertising and sale of booklets, also a percentage of memberships received by The American and turned over to this fund monthly.

We held our own in chartered locals the past year and granted charters to six new local associations and two states, making a total of 160 locals and 18 state associations. Illinois and Missouri no longer hold a combined charter for both states, but The Illinois State Association is chartered by itself leaving Missouri with no state charter. In each locality where you have enough breeders, do not hesitate to organize a local association and take out charter. Full instructions with proposed copy of constitution and by-laws for local associations are furnished free for the asking.

The specialty clubs continue to work along with and boost their respective breeds and we with them. There was only one new specialty club charter granted the past year—The Giant Chinchilla Club, which has a good strong membership. During the past 13 months, since my last convention report, we turned over in registration money to the various specialty clubs, \$187.40. This on a basis of 10c on each registration application received.

During the period for the 13 months ending November 1, 1941, our registrations showed a gain of about 30% over the same period last year. New Zealands lead with 638, Chinchillas, second with 371 and Flemish, a close second with 333. Last year Chinchillas lead by a narrow margin. Checkered Giants showed a good gain this year with 76, last year there were only 30 Checkers registered. Angoras made a wonderful gain with 197 registered in this period as compared with 76 last year. Other breeds with 20 or more are as follows: Havanas, Dutch, French Silver, Creme de Argents and Rexes. However, in the last month registrations showed a great increase and should continue to do so during the next few months.

There is still a demand for grand championship certificates, but nothing like there should be. During the past 13 months, we gave out 30 grand championship certificates covering animals for exceptional quality as compared with 29 given in my last report. This shows that breeders are still interested in breeding some of the good ones. Blanks are furnished free for the asking.

During the past year the following prominent breeders have been taken from us: W. F. Dodge, Tacoma, Wash.; Fred H. Inman, Wichita, Kans.; Mrs. A. J. Jansen, Atlanta, Ga.; Mrs. S. H. Sixma, Muskegon, Mich.; L. M. Davis, El Monte, Calif.; K. W. Fox, Rochester, N. Y.; Harry Thompson, Chicago, Ill.; N. E. Wilcox, Minneapolis; and Mrs. Stickles, Mukwonago, Wisc.

Success With Rabbits

To make a success of breeding and raising rabbits, the same as with any other live stock, the owner must have a liking for the work, in other words, it must be a pleasure to watch and care for the stock instead of being a tedious job. Without interest, enjoyment and satisfaction in the work, there is not much hope. Some hired help will go from one hutch to another feeding the same kind and quantity of feed without the slightest consideration as to the individual requirements of the animals. These so-called caretakers simply think of feeding, bedding, etc., as a job and the sooner they have it done the better they are suited.

During the winter, and often in other seasons, I always make it a point to go through the rabbitry and look into each hutch during the evening to see that everything is right. There are many success essentials, not only to know about, but to be attended to and carried out. The cause of failure in the rabbit business is often laid to the wrong cause, such as to healthfulness, vitality of the stock, weather, etc., when, actually, it is due to the neglectful, careless and indifferent way of breeding and caring for the animals. — C. M. V.

FANCY MICE

Selection of Mice

(Concluded from December ALL-PETS)

4. The Ticked Varieties: The coat of these has a ground of one color, with black, brown, or white hairs evenly "ticking" the coat. The ticking is often due to the fact that the ends of the hairs are black or brown. Of these there are many kinds: agoutis, cinnamons, sables, silver greys and browns, and pearls—a new variety originated by Mrs. Blowers, whose book some of you know. There are others which the beginner may well ignore.

It is, on the whole, easier to breed a good self mouse than a good marked or ticked one. With the Dutch brokens, etc., however, one can see within a few days how the young are marked, and can decide if they are worth keeping. In the case of a self, a tan or a ticked mouse, one may have to wait several months before being sure how it will finally develop. In purchasing mice, get the biggest and best you can, select your breeding stock from the best you produce, avoid inbreeding as much as possible, and a few generations should see a great improvement. Be content to concentrate on one point at a time, size, color, etc., and to move slowly but surely towards the desired goal.

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