

MEMORANDUM

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

R. GURNAY

ADR. TÉLÉGR. : GURNAY, VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

COMPTE CHÈQUES POSTAUX 9885

VERVIERS, LE 2 Sept. 1924
61, RUE AUX LAINES

A Mr.

Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

My dear Friend,

I beg to confirm my previous letter and to enclose herewith the reply I have received from Dr. Bricoux with regards to youngsters for your friend.

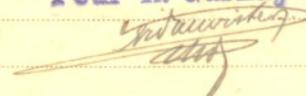
Kindly let me hear about this as soon as possible.

The French paper announced in my previous letter is posted to-day as I had to communicate same to a friend in Belgium before sending it on to you.

With kindest regards and all good wishes, believe me

Ever yours most sincerely,

Pour R. Gurnay



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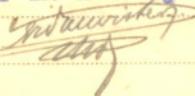
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With kindest regards and all good wishes, believe me

Ever yours most sincerely,

Pour R. Gurnay



D^r A. BRICOUX

Jolimont, le 26/VIII 1924

JOLIMONT

HAINES-SAINTE-PIERRE

Monsieur Garnay
Verviers,

Je pourrais fournir à votre ami
deux couples de pigeonneaux
provenant de mes meilleurs nuyets
au prix de 200 dollars le couple.
Prière de lui fixer le plus tôt
que vous le pourrez.

Mes meilleurs salutations

Translation

Aug. 26/1924

Mr. Garnay,

Verviers

I could supply your friend
with two pairs of youngsters from my best birds at
the price of 200 dollars per pair.

Kindly give me your answer as soon as possible.

Best greetings
(s) Dr. Bricoux

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 16 September 1924

61, Rue aux Laines

My dear Mr. Ford,

Ever so many thanks for your kind letter dated 30th. ult. and for the copy of Mr. Heuvelmans' letter.

I am glad to see that he, at long last, has recognized his wrongs, but his opinion that, by writing to the people to whom he mentioned "my" case, he has righted everything, I cannot share.

Beside those to whom he spoke or wrote are those who got to hear about it indirectly, through Heuvelmans' correspondents or friends. As a matter of fact, the rumours must per force have been spread much more than he may think; you must know by experience of human nature that such ill-meant rumours, when somebody's reputation or honour is at stake, always are spread as by the four winds.

I consequently deem it necessary that the whole case should be made known to the fancy through the Fancy Press; even those who never heard a word will know the story, that is certain, but they will at the same time here both the attack and the defense. Further, a man may hear about it some time hence, may be in a year or two perhaps, and the impression would remain bad for me and my strain.

Now, if the whole matter is made public, anybody will know about it and will know that my name is stainless, and also that I can defend myself when attacked without reasons for so doing.

I shall therefore rely upon you to put the whole matter, through the Press, before the American fancy, and I thank you very much before hand for same. The sooner the better, I think.

As to Mr. Heuvelmans being disturbed by what he calls my scandalous letters, I think this to be rather cheeky of him. Well, here is a man who attacks me and stabs me in the back, without the slightest reason for so doing, and without even troubling to know whether my honotability is not as good as that of the fellows he spoke to when in Belgium. I do not suppose that he took for granted that those two men were the only two honest men in this country.....

He should also have known that my reputation was not in Gibson's hands and his mere duty, before speaking to any one was to interrogate either my own self or the Belgian federation. Instead of that he has put the question to many people, including Osman in London, but never did he send a word for information to anybody that could with certainty put the matter right. And then, when I have shown my anger, he is surprised....

What would he have been, had he stood that test? Distance was not even an excuse for him, for while he was in Belgium, it was but a matter of very few hours, and of but a couple of dollars, for him to go to the Fédération in Brussels and hear authoritatively what could be said for or against me. He neglected all measures of prudence, and made haste to do me as much harm as he could without seeming to be at my heels. I do not care much about his letters, but in spite of what I wrote him, do you not think that his mere duty was to apologize to me in writing, just as much as writing to you direct?

Gibson : I have written him many times and he does not even trouble to answer my letters, still less to send me anything against his account.

What do you think of writing to the Press and bringing to the knowledge of the Fancy that, owing to the way he is treating me, I have ceased my connection with him ?

Not only does he owe me the cost of the 36 baskets which he had me order for him, but also frs. 3850 for the Dujardin birds, along with a small balance for the Dardenne birds and all the expenses for shipping both birds and baskets, also for shipping the Body birds which, fortunately, were paid beforehand. In all, about frs. 8500.-

We should call that a nasty trick.....

What do you think too of writing to the Secretary of the higher Pigeon authorities in the States, asking them to put him on the black list, for the security of Fanciers who would buy pigeons through him ?

Please advise me of what can be done.

I have written him again to-day that I would take steps against him were I not paid before October 15th.

Birds: As you are aware, each year I sell to my friend Shaw my surplus birds.

As I shall have to send you a pair promised in acknowledgement of the picture of Bon Bleu which you presented me with, also a pair or two in exchange of the youngsters which you will have bred for me, would you not have part of that surplus, so as to make but one shipment of the whole lot.

I could manage to let you have some 10 pairs at the rate (special for you) of 50 dollars per pair.

Of course, those birds cannot be expected to be birds such as those which I have sent you up to now, but they are good birds, pure strain, and the purchasers of same would surely make a good bargain.

That price is loco, and is, of course, my nett price for you. It would be up to you to see how much you would sell them to your customers, according to what the birds would be like.

All I can say is that they belong to the strain and have all been bred here out of my selected birds, but of course, in a whole year's breed, no one would expect all birds to be A.Ex

I am sending you to-day a paper with an article about Mr. Devroye and his birds. It may interest you and those who purchased his birds which I shipped to you.

Re the moult of the birds, this is what I give them all the time, beside plenty of green (lettuce, spinach and cress)

small crumbs of grilled(roasted dry) bread:	20	ozs.
<u>meat</u> , dried and ground	10	"
<u>hemp</u> , ground so as to make a powder of it	10	"
<u>bones</u> , ground " " " " " "	10	"
<u>Flour</u> of brimstone., purified	10	"
<u>bicarbonate</u> of soda	2	"
<u>sulphate</u> of iron in powder	1	"

all those well mixed with health grit.

This should be served a cupful on a tray or plate every day in every loft. And not forget the green.

With all good wishes and kindest regards, believe me, dear Sir,
Yours most faithfully,

for R. Gurnay

A Mr. William Whiting (of Whiting Paper Coy.) Holyoke, Mass. has come to see our lofts this summer. Perhaps you might like to hear what he, as a countryman of yours, may have to say about the birds he saw, although all the best ones had been sent to the race the day before he came.

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 7th. October 1924

61, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

Dear Friend,

I beg to confirm my previous letter and trust that it found you in the best of health; also that, their task well accomplished, your birds are moulting nicely.

Mine, I am glad to say, are going through their moult magnificently and last week I had the visit of two English friends who were really in ecstacy before them.

Re the offer made in my previous letter for my surplus birds, I shall be able to sell as between 40 and 50 pairs, or rather between 30 to 100 birds, more cocks among them than hens.

Among them will be magnificent breeders and very good racers; in short it will be a marvellous lot, and at the price quoted for you, it will be a gift.

If I were to sell them in Belgium, I could make a lot of money out of it, but then I should have the bother of settling them for every purchaser, and further I would surely come across them or their offspring later on in the races. That is a thing which I do not care much about, and that is the reason why I prefer selling them all abroad, knowing moreover than whoever buys them will be well served and delighted with the bargain.

Would it interest you, I wonder?

Kindly let me hear at once what you think of it, as I want to settle
 Yours very truly,
 Pour R. Gurnay *R. Gurnay*
 that at once.

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 20 Octobre 1924

61, Rue aux Laines

Dear Mr. Ford,

I beg to confirm my previous letter, and I have received the enclosed letter from Doctor Bricoux, to whom I have replied that I was expecting a letter from you very shortly, and expected to have also your answer to his offer by the same occasion.

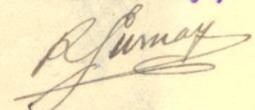
I also would like to know if I may retain for you the 40 pairs which I have offered you, and I may again say that it is a real bargain, for the lot as a whole is most advantageous and really beautiful.

There would be in that lot some birds which you would have to keep for yourself and which would certainly breed fine specimens for you.

For your guidance, the proof of ownership will henceforward be made by the fact that the exporter will have to secure from the Fédération Colombophile Belge a certificate of ownership for all birds to be exported the exporter having to satisfy the Fédération that he is actually the breeder before that certificate being granted. The ring numbers will be checked and thus there will be no chance of criticizing and no possibility of spreading about false rumours as was done lately. I do not know as yet whether that certificate will be sent to consignee along with shipping documents or will be retained by the port authorities on this side, but at all events it must be produce before embarkation be permitted here.

With kindest regards and all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Jolimont, le 7/X/1926

Cher Monsieur Jurney,

Né recevant pas de vos nouvelles, je suppose que votre ami d'Amérique ne vous a pas répondu ; dans ces conditions ne puis-je pas que je puisse me considérer comme sans espoir. Meurt vu avis de ce homme, qui pour moi n'a pas pu disposer de ses pigeons. En tout cas je me réjouis à votre avis.

Meilleurs salutations

De Jurney

P. T. O.

(over)

Translation

Dear Mr. Gurnay,

Having received no reply,
I suppose you have not heard from your friend in
America either,

In that case do you not think that I may
consider myself as not being engaged in any deal
with that Gentleman ?

This in order to know whether I may dispose
of my birds. At all events I shall accept your
suggestion with regards to this.

Yours,

(s) Dr. Bricoux

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 3rd. November 1924

6r, Rue aux Laines

My dear Mr. Ford,

I duly received your esteemed favour, and I have at once written to Dr. Bricoux about the birds which your friend Mr. Van de Putte desires.

From my point of view, Dr. Bricoux is sure to deliver good birds, the more so probably as he will know that they will pass through my hands before being shipped. From what I have already heard about him, I should say he will satisfy your friend.

Yet, do you not think that the best of all would be for Mr. Van de Putte to write direct to him?

His address is Dr. Bricoux

Jelumont

near Haine-St. Pierre.

We might have saved a lot of time had we been acting that way to start with, and beside my responsibility would have been relieved.

Re the surplus birds which I have offered you at the flat rate of 50 dollars per pair loco, I may say that there are in that lot at least 15 pairs that are much better than any Dr. Bricoux will ship to your friend.

When comparing his performances with mine, one should not lose sight of the 120 kilos which his birds have to fly less than mine have.

Of course we all realize that the last kilometers to fly are the hardest to the birds, and that difference of distance gives him an enormous advantage in National races.

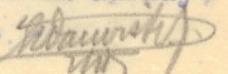
When this reaches you, kindly cable definitely what you will take, if any, so as to be in a position to organize the sale of my surplus birds.

As I promised you, I have given you the first choice, and I want to stick to my word, but I should be fixed up at once, so as not to be too late when offering my birds to other fanciers.

Awaiting your prompt answer, and with kindest regards and all good wishes, I beg to remain, dear Mr. Ford,

Yours very sincerely,

Pour R. Gurnay



Vendredi

novembre 14/24

Mon cher Renier par post j'ai envoyé.

le R.P. cette semaine mon
reclame Pages. VI. et VII

ici tous les choses de Race Gurnay.

Je dirai que 1924 les pigeons de Monsieur
Gurnay va principalement à Amérique
mais si il y a ^{qui} desiré à venir du est
à toi ce est permis.

Nous arrangerons plus tard

Page 897. Les remarques de Northwest
Concernant nos pigeons.

Page 909. J'états étonné à voir ta
lettre, Osman diré que quand Northwest
est venu chez lui toujours Northwest
n'aime pas ses pigeons. etc etc.

Mon idée est ta lettre donne un mauvaise
impression que tu es fâché et nous
toujours penser en que Les Vrai Champions

(2)

n'a pas besoin par un remarque de
les petite ameteurs.
C'est tres difficile pour expliquer.

J'attend la reponse a mon reclame
et j'espere a vendre presque 100
pigeons et apres j'ai encore 100.
plus tard j'ecrirais le resultat.

Concernant ton "trop pleine" oui ~~oui~~
si tu ne vendes pas je prendrai
mais il faut l'attend un peu parce
que je n'ai pas beaucoup de placement
encore.

With regards to your surplus "yes", if you do not sell it I will take
it; yet I must wait a bit, as I have not much room just now.

Compliments a Madame

Ton devoue
Fred

P.S. comme dire "j'aura tres content pour
les details des prix gagner par les
autres ameteurs en Amerique et Angleten

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 24th. November 1924

61, Rue aux Laines

My dear Mr. Ford,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of yours dated 3rd. and 6th. inst. for which I thank you very sincerely,

Re Dr. Bricoux' birds, as I have already told you, I prefer that Mr. Vande Putte write himself to him, and settles matters with him. I said last year that I would not any more bother over my friends' birds. Those friends come and bother me over selling their surplus birds in America, as it was the case with those which I sent you last fall. I have done it so as to help them, and then one has all the difficulties and annoyance.

Thus, in future, I shall not do anything in that line.

Your offer to take my birds on consignment, and pay for them when sold quite suited me, as we have been in touch for a long enough time, and we ought to know each other quite well by now. Moreover, it was a real bargain which I had offered you, as the price of those birds worked out at something like frs. 300 per head, plus costs.

In your letter, you say that you find that birds are sold to English fanciers at a better price than they are offered to you, Americans, but you have seen in the English R.P. that Mr. Dardenne has sold his at nearly frs. 500 per head, while I offered you mine at some frs. 300, and compared to Mr. Dardenne's, mine are as white is to black.

I have these last twenty years been the champion at our, the strongest club, and this year I have repeated the feat again, as you will see in the paper which I send you by same mail. Same will show you that Dardenne, who is a member of our club, is nowhere.

You might ask yourself, and would be right, why I did not sell my birds to those Englishmen when they came to see my loft. As you probably know, I have an agreement with Mr. Shaw, not to sell any birds direct in England.

When that party came over, they simply shouted at the sight of my birds, but they toned down when I refused to sell them any birds. That is probably the reason why their account of my loft is so "damp" in the R.P. which you have read. Since then you will have read my answer, and the Ed. comments on same. Again, I have written last Saturday in order to edify them, I am anxious to see whether they will publish that second letter of mine in their issue of the 29th. inst.

In order to help you and your friends, I have seen Mr. Dardenne last week, and you will find his answer herewith, which kindly return, as it is worth keeping. Dardenne is a good pal, and a good fancier, but rather conceited, and I wonder how he has been able to say that I was a master.

Kindly tell your friends to write direct to Mr. Dardenne, and if they want me to go and make a choice for them, well and good, but they must first of all come to an agreement with the owner, as I won't have the slightest responsibility in the deal.

With regards to my own surplus birds again, I am glad that you have had an opportunity to see what a bargain I offered you. It was offered to you a lot cheaper than Dardenne did sell his birds to the English fanciers, and I do not hesitate to say that they were not, in any way to be compared to his birds and to no other Belgians at that.

Each year they are sold to my friend Shaw, but as you had, last year told me that you would like to have them, and to keep for yourself some

R. GURNAY

(Suite)

which I would have pointed out to you, I had told Shaw that, this year, my surplus would go to America, and that he would have to do without.

That is the reason why I offered the lot to you.

Since I have had your letter, saying that you did not care to have them, I have written to him, and you will see by his enclosed letter that he expects them this year as well as formerly. I really have not the slightest difficulty to dispose of them in England, and they are but too keen to come over and buy some if I would let them do so.

I am going to sort them out next week, and should you change your mind, just cable me, as I could always arrange matters with Shaw.

In that lot are several birds off the father of Mr. Wood's bird, which is mentioned in the R.P. as well as brothers of the Mealy, which has (the Mealy) in the five last races of the season, won first prize each time.

He is four years old, and absolutely beautiful.

How much would you offer for him and his mate????

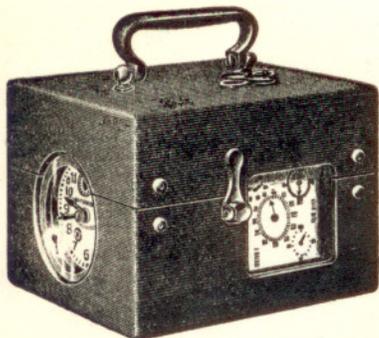
Two years ago, I think, I offered you his father, who is now 11 years old, and most beautiful still, and still a perfect breeder.

With kindest regards,

Yours most sincerely,
Pour R. Gurnay

R. Gurnay

P. S. With regards the youngsters which you mean to send, I am sure they will be beautiful, and am very anxious to see them later. However, I must thank you again for same.



SIZE 7¼x6¼x5

A. H. Plasschaert Bros. BELGIAN PIGEON TIMERS

MODEL 1921—12 BIRD TIMER—PRINTING SYSTEM
MODEL 1925—14 BIRD TIMER—STAMPING SYSTEM

SOLE AGENT U. S. A.

A. HEUVELMANS

221 WEBSTER AVENUE
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

WINDSOR 3737

IMPORTER OF

RUBBER COUNTERMARKS, SHIPPING BASKETS and RACE MATERIAL

December 27th 1924.

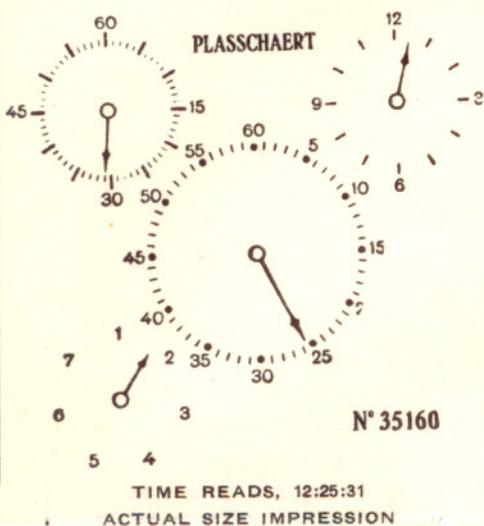
Mr. Lee M. Ford,
The Great Falls National Bank,
Great Falls, Montana.

Dear Sir:-

Have yours of December 10th, which arrived here while I was on a business trip, of which I just returned. I note from your letter that Mr. Gurnay wishes a lot of publicity, about the matter in question, and while I am always willing to correct any mistake which I may have made, I do not feel as to be indebted to Mr. Gurnay to the extend as putting this matter in the paper,

which would mean for Mr. Gurnay nothing short than a well planed advertisement for the sale of his birds.

The things said about Mr. Gurnay have never been said by me as a positive fact, I have always spoken about it in the form of an inquiry I made as well to Mr. Gibson as to the English Racing Pigeon, where I have asked for information about the matter, having nothing else in view than the protection of the American fanciers, who are inclined to give teir good dollars to the man that makes the most noise about the quality of his birds. I have spoken about this matter to four people only, and as soon I have found out that these things said about Mr. Gurnay were untrue, I have immediately notified these gentlemen, that there was a mistake there. If this matter had been given any publicity it is nobody but Gibson/~~what~~ isto blame for it. I feel that I have done my duty and intend to stop there. I wrote Mr Gurnay on November the 24th last a letter in which I expressed my sorrow for what had happened and I am up to the present without a reply. Had his letters in the past been of such a nature as to come to a friendly understanding I would not hesitate a minute now in satisfying him . but as things stand now I think I have done



all he is entitled too.

For your information I want to say that I had my friends on the other side looking this matter up thouroughly and I am now informed that there must have been a mistake in the name as something has really happened with a very well known fancier whose name is pronounced something very close to Mr. Gurnay's and that it is quite possible, that the wrong pronounciation of the name may have caused all this trouble. The man in question who has made himself guilty of dishonesty in the sale of his birds was also a man that had exported a lot of birds to America and well known strain, and to add more to the congusion he is also from Verviers. I do not care to mention the name as I have no intention in mixing me in another pigeon contrevorsy.

Nevertheless I will agree to have you insert the following int the Pigeon Journal:

"Correction"

"Rumours seem to have been spread, attacking Mr. Gurnay's birds are" "contradicted, as I have proofs on hand, showing that Mr. Gurnay has never" "been in any trouble at all, and that his birds are of the highest type." "This to avoid all misunderstandings which may result from these rumours."

A. Heuvelans.

You will remember that in one of my previous letters I suggested the neccessity of having certified pedigrees of the Federation to come with the imported birds. I made at that time the same suggestion to Mr Gibson who simply ridiculed the idea, and I am now glad to say that I have just imported seven pigeons from Belgium and that I have got a special federation certificate showing who bread the birds with them which proves that my idea was very well workable as I at least feel confident that the man who sold me the birds had purchased the bands in his name. It seems to be nothing new as this was made out on a special form of the federation in the two languages and I beleive that we should all insist on same.

Hoping that the above will put an end to this contreversy I remain

Yours very truly,



Brooklyn, N. Y.
December 27th, 1924.

Mr. Lee M. Ford,
The Great Falls National Bank,
Great Falls, Montana.

Dear Sir:-

Have yours of December 10th, which arrived here while I was on a business trip, of which I just returned. I note from your letter that Mr. Gurnay wishes a lot of publicity, about the matter in question, and while I am always willing to correct any mistake which I may have made, I do not feel as to be indebted to Mr. Gurnay to the extent of putting this matter in the paper, which would mean for Mr. Gurnay nothing short than a well planned advertisement for the sale of his birds.

The things said about Mr. Gurnay have never been said by me as a positive fact. I have always spoken about it in the form of an inquiry I made as well to Mr. Gibson as to the English Racing Pigeon, where I have asked for information about the matter, having nothing else in view than the protection of the American fanciers who are inclined to give their good dollars to the man that makes the most noise about the quality of his birds. I have spoken about this matter to four people only, and as soon as I have found out that these things said about Mr. Gurnay were untrue, I have immediately notified these gentlemen that there was a mistake there. If this matter has been given any publicity it is nobody but Gibson who is to blame for it. I feel that I have done my duty and intend to stop there. I wrote Mr. Gurnay on November 24th last a letter in which I expressed my sorrow for what had happened and I am up to the present without a reply. Had his letters in the past been of such a nature as to come to a friendly understanding I would not hesitate a minute now in satisfying him, but as things stand now I think I have done all he is entitled to.

For your information I want to say that I had my friends on the other side looking this matter up thoroughly and I am now informed that there must have been a mistake in the name as something has really happened with a very well known fancier whose name is pronounced something very close to Mr. Gurnay's and that it is quite possible that the wrong pronunciation of the name may have caused all this trouble. The man in question who has made himself guilty of dishonesty in the sale of his birds was also a man that had exported a lot of birds to America and well known strain, and to add more to the confusion he is also from Verviers. I do not care to mention the name as I have no intention in mixing me in another pigeon controversy.

Nevertheless, I will agree to have you insert the following in the Pigeon Journal:

"CORRECTION"

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contradicted as I have proofs on hand showing that Mr. Gurnay has never been in any trouble at all and that his birds are of the highest type. This is to avoid all misunderstandings which may result from these rumors.

A. Heuvelmans"

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Hoping that the above will put an end to this controversy, I remain

Yours very truly,

A. Heuvelmans

COPY

1924 Mating List
The Treasure State Loft

Received one pair of Gurnay's from the first importation and has imported birds annually since 1919, sparing no expense to procure the best birds obtainable. All my later importations have either been prize winners in hot competition or the sons and daughters of champions and I have the best collection of Gurnays in America, as evidenced by the fact that Monsieur Gurnay has placed an order for four youngsters reared this season, positive proof of his faith in the foundation obtained from him. He has spent almost forty years perfecting his strain, and by in-breeding has succeeded in establishing a prepotent blood capable of transmitting their many good qualities.

Very few birds will be reared and I prefer to retain all youngsters until after the moult, but will accept a few orders to be filled at my option, anytime during the season. Nothing but strong, healthy birds will be sent out, and if you are not satisfied after a week's inspection, money will be refunded upon return in good condition.

PAIR A

A-1 Belge 991-16 Checkered Cock "La Tache", son of "Masterpiece", own brother to Real Masterpiece, Le Bon Petit Ecaille and Angouleme. The "Masterpiece" is from a son of Le Gros and a daughter of the "Old Blue" hen. Le Gros in one racing season won 1st Montagnis, 1st Limoges, 1st Perigneux, and 1st Chateauroux. Dam of "La Tache" is a daughter of Le Bidet, blue cock, consistent racer for nine pre-war seasons. She is also dam of Fred, winner of first Limoges 1921 and \$9,000 in pools, probably largest winning of any bird in one race.

"La Tache" is the sire and grandsire of many winners, including hen in Fred Shaws Perfection Pair, for which he asks \$125 per squeaker. He is the grandsire of Quality, 3rd Bournemouth, 1st Granville and 1st Stockport Federation, also Neaty 1st Rennes in Manchester Federation, over all sections 1923.

A-2 Belge 103427-23 Blue hen sent especially as a mate for "La Tache" by Monsieur Gurnay who writes "she is to my mind the best possible mate for La Tache". This is a beautiful hen sire by "Derby" dark son of the famous "Excellency", extra breeder and never defeated in the pen. Her dam is a blue hen from a blue son of Bossu, great pre-war winner.

PAIR B

B-1 Belge 40779-19 Bronze Cock, called Le Petit Vierzon (also called young Bossu), winner of 1st St. Denis and 1st Grand National Race Vierzon as a yearling total winnings \$6,500. M. Gurnay had two birds engaged in the race from Vierzon, winning 1st and 2nd. Vierzon is a son of the champion racer "Fred".

Vierzon produced 1158500-20, winner of eight prizes in 1921 and nine in 1922 among them 1st Dourdan, 1st Orleans, and 2nd Limoges Grand National Subscription Race, winning famous cup offered by Gazette de Liege. Dam also in my loft.

B-2 Belge 1030406-23 Blue hen sent especially to mate Petit Vierzon. She is a daughter of Monsieur Gurnay's famous checkered winner "Le Bon Ecaille" and her dam is a checkered daughter of "Petit Vierzon" a beautiful hen almost identical to the mate for La Tache.

PAIR C

C-1 Belge 24940-18 Checkered Cock "Telephone", winner of 38th prize Grand National Race from Angouleme in 1920, son of Le Bon Petit Ecaille, M. Gurnay's champion in 1913 and winning 1st Vierzon and 1st Fontainbleau in 1914. In two seasons Petit Ecaille won \$8,000 in sixteen races.

9543-19 Bronze Hen, granddaughter of Bon Blue.

PAIR D

D-1 Belge 115438-20 Bronze Cock "Noyon", winning as a yearling 1st prize "Noyon", 7th Dourdan, and other prizes. "Noyon" is a son of "La Tache" and hen of Pair E.

D-2 Au 22 D-1444 Blue hen, excellent daughter of pair C.

PAIR E

E-1 Belge 2516037-22 Dark cock son of Bronze Favorite, 1st prize Grand National Race from Angouleme 1920 by thirty minutes. Bronze Favorite is from Bon Blue and Record. Dam of E-1 is a daughter of Cigarette 12th same race.

E-2 Belge 54805-19 Bronze White Flight Hen, daughter of Bronze Excellence, extra breeder, and a son of Le Gros. This hen is an extra stock hen and mother of "Noyon" cock "D" Pair.

PAIR F

F-1 Belge 1030421-23 Blue cock from a dark checkered son of Bronze Favorite (mentioned Pair E), dam extra breeder "La Belle Blue" daughter of "Record" and "Bon Blue".

F-2 Belge 26191-18 Bronze Hen, daughter of Bon Blue, champion racer and breeder. Bon Blue is a son of the old "Blue Hen", mother of M. Gurnay's loft. Dam of 26191-18 is a bronze hen called "Record", granddaughter of "Bossu". 26191-18 is own sister to Bronze Favorite, winner by 30 minutes of the Grand National Race from Angouleme in 1920, "Cigarette", 12th in same race, also Young Excellence and Plume Casse, both excellent racers.

This mating is especially advised by Monsieur Gurnay and is in-breeding with a vengeance.

Orders will be accepted for young of the above five pairs with the understanding that they will be filled at owners option. Price per squeaker \$40.00.

G. Belge 1158522-20 Blue hen granddaughter of "Le Bon Petite Ecaille" and "Record".

H. Belge 9533-19 Bronze ^{grand} daughter of "Le Bon Petite Ecaille" and half-sister to the famous "Record".

I. Belge 40711-19 Dark granddaughter of "La Tache" and the "Old Blue" hen, mother of Gurnay's loft.

J. Belge 40730-19 Dark checkered cock, own brother to Petit Vierzon.

K. Belge 1158462-20 Dark cock great grandson of "Le Gros" and "Le Bon Petite Ecaille".

L. Au 22 D 1467 Bronze son of Noyon and F-2.

M. Au 21 C 9502 Bronze son of I and K extra fine bird.

N. Au 21 C 9560 Blue daughter of H and J.

All lettered birds may be used as reference in tracing pedigrees of birds in following pairs.

PAIR I

Au 22 D 1401 Bronze cock, the finest bird I have ever raised, extra breeder son of D-1 and F-2.

Au 22 D 1483 Blue hen, extra fine and a fit mate for this male, daughter of A-1 and E-2.

PAIR II

Au 21 C 9508 Bronze cock extra bird son of J and H winner of 300 mile race 1923 driving rain entire distance.

Au 22 D 1464 Checkered hen, excellent bird daughter of D-1 and F-2.

PAIR III

Au 21 C 9501 Bronze cock, very heavily feathered bird son of I and K.

Au 23 A 4428 Dark Bronze pied daughter of J and F-2.

PAIR IV

Au 22 D 1418 Blue cock son of Pair XII. This bird won 1st prize in 1923 from Salt Lake, 467 miles entire course over the Rocky Mountains, as hard as any course in America. Very gay and happy on arrival.

Au 23 A 4435 Checkered daughter of Pair XIV resembling her grand-sire Telephone.

PAIR V

Au 23 A 4403 Dark pied son of A-1 and F-2, own brother to hen in Fred Shaw's Perfection Pair.

Au 23 F 6536 Bronze daughter of L and hen of Pair II.

PAIR VI

Au 22 D 1425 Dark son (eleven flights) of D-1 and F-2 own brother to cock Pair I.

Au 22 D 1417 Blue daughter Pair XII nest mate to 1st prize Salt Lake.

PAIR VII

Au 23 A 4405 Blue cock son of J and E-2.

Au 22 D 1443 Bronze daughter of C-1 and C-2.

PAIR VIII

Au 23 A 4454 Dark checkered son of cock Pair VI and hen D-2.

Au 22 D 1408 Dark checkered hen daughter of I and J.

PAIR IX

Au 22 D 1421 Dark checkered son of M and N. A most dependable yearling and I expect him to be best racer in loft this season. Very happy bird, closely resembles "La Petite Vierzon".

Belge 40732-19 Blue granddaughter of "Record" and mother of 2nd prize from Limoges when mated to "Petit Vierzon".

PAIR X

Au 21 C 9564 Bronze cock, excellent racer, son of J and H and brother to cocks Pairs II and XII.

Au 22 D 1434 Blue daughter of Pair XII and sister to 1st prize Salt Lake.

PAIR XI

Au 23 F 6549 Checkered cock from a son of A-1 and E-2, dam hen Pair VI.

Belge 40711-19 Dark hen, reference I.

PAIR XII

Au 21 C 9548 Blue son of J and H.

Au 21 C 9558 Dark checkered daughter of I and K. No better hen in loft. This pair breed good ones. Parents of 1st prize, Salt Lake.

PAIR XIII

Au 23 F 6546 Blue ticked with black son of B-1 and G. Extra bird.

Au 23 A 4424 Checkered daughter cock Pair VI and hen D-2.

PAIR XIV

Au 22 D 1461 Checkered son of C-1 and C-2. Extra bird.

Au 22 D 1435 Blue daughter of Pair XII.

PAIR XV

Au 22 D 1468 Dark checkered son of Pair XII.

Au 22 D 1479 Blue daughter of C-1 and C-2. Extra pair.

PAIR XVI

Au 23 A 4475 checkered son of A-1 and F-2.

Au 23 A 4451 Blue checkered hen from dark son of A-1 and E-2, dam hen pair X.

PAIR XVII

Au 23 F 6553 Bronze white flight son of E-1 and hen Pair X.

Au 22 D 1446 Dark Bronze white flight, eleven flighted daughter of D-1 and F-2.

PAIR XVIII

Au 23 F 6562 Blue son of Pair XV.

Au 22 D 1480 Bronze eleven flighted daughter of D-1 and F-2.

PAIR XIX

Belge 40730-19 Dark checkered cock, own brother to "Petite Vierzon".

Au 22 D 1402, checkered daughter of D-1 and F-2 extra hen, nest mate to cock Pair I.

PAIR XX

Au 22 D 1480 Blue checkered pied son of A-1 and E-2.

Belge 302738-22 Blue daughter of Cigarette 12th Grand National Angouleme 1920.

In addition there are a few birds intended for long distance racing and a few extra choice late bred birds that will not be mated until the middle of April. No attempt has been made to describe birds but all are excellent well feathered, well formed specimens, with rich red eyes alert and sparkling.

Squeakers from pairs I to XX inclusive will be \$25 each.

LEE M. FORD

Great Falls, Montana.

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 29th. December 1924

61, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

Dear Mr. Ford,

I am duly in receipt of your esteemed favour dated 10th. inst. and as soon as I received it, I got in touch with Mr. D'Ardenne, and he is at my disposal for the choice which I am to make on your behalf among the birds which he is ready to sell at the mentioned price of 200 dollars par pair.

I have well received your remittance for 200 dollars already, and I am now awaiting your instructions for the shipment of those birds.

But, as you quite rightly say, although I am going to select the very best birds among those which Mr. D'Ardenne is going to place at my disposal for that choice, I cannot in any event accept any responsibility for those birds, and would accept no reproach whatever on that score. I am going to do exactly as you direct me, with all my conscience, but that is all I can do.

I must say that, in Mr. D'Ardenne's loft, there is no real running blood, as we say, that is ONE blood like in my loft. Each year, he buys some 30 to 50 birds from different sources, which he has again done this month, purchasing 8 hens at an auction sale, then again 24 birds from another good little loft (these latter to my mind being by far the best he ever bought so far).

His black pied cock which you mention is a Gurnay bird. A workman who, sometimes attended to my birds received a youngster from me as a present, which gave that pied black cock, and that man sold this last year to D'Ardenne.

Those Englishman who came over here were poor fanciers, and most really could not properly handle a bird; as for Osman, he is most dishonest and I already knew him before the war and knew what he was after. When there is something on, he wants his profit, otherwise the thing is sure to be run down, but I shall have nothing to do with journalists. They all are as bad as their fellows, out for big commissions on the birds they manage to sell mostly to fools who believe in what they write in their papers.

Take Gigot, for instance, who came over here with the English party: he is to cash above 4000 francs on the birds sold to those visitors by Dardenne alone. I prefer to quote a reasonable price to my customer and pay nothing to newspapermen.

And just to show you to what extent those Englishmen knew nothing about birds, I may tell you that I exhibited three birds last week at the International Show organized by Gigot himself, and I win 1st. and 2nd. and a fourth prizes.

For the Excellency prize, there were two birds left for competition and the unanimous opinion of all visitors is that my bird won it, but it was given to the other bird, and when the Juries were asked why mine was not selected as of right, they found as an excuse that his breast-bone was not straight, which is absolutely untrue, but all baskets were sealed and nobody could make sure that they did not speak the truth.

I am sending you a report of that Show by same mail, but never again shall I risk my birds in those exhibitions.

Re my Wealy, that bird has raced very successfully for four seasons, for he started racing as a youngster, and has won for me between 12 and 15000 francs each season. It really is a pity to make that bird a prisoner, for he is absolutely magnificent beside being an extra racer.

Yet, if you want it really, I shall let you have it with his mate for 550 dollars I as I have cabled you to-day. It is something a jolly sight better than the bird which Curtis paid frs. 20000 to Bastin and which never did anything but a first prize Limoges.

You always mention birds for races up to 600 miles. I cannot say anything that my strain is ideally fitted for those races, as well as for all others, short or long. Yet, what can I do more than tell you?

And if you do not believe it, what am I to do next?

This last season, our long race was Angoulême, 850 kilos, flown along with the Brussels National race. With seven birds sent, I win 6 prizes here: 1st. 4th. 10th. 17th. 21st. and 33rd.; also six prizes for the Brussels National.

From Limoges, at Lige, with two birds, first prize with 15 minutes advance.

At both races, D'Ardenne was nowhere.

What a pity that you should have lost the birds which you say: were they paired to birds flying freely at your place? Telephone had won for me an 8th. prize at a National race in Brussels.

The tale told by that Courtrai man is downright untrue. In fact it is quite the boot on the other leg, as now no one bird can leave this country without a permit delivered by the Fédération Nationale Colombo-philie Belge. When birds are to be exported, the owner must communicate to that Fédération the ring numbers which are checked, and when they are satisfied that the birds belong to the applicant, they deliver an export-permit mentioning the ring-numbers, which must be checked before embarkation by the Customs authorities. No ring-less bird could leave this country, unless it be smuggled out, but then for us it is not worth a cent.

You will kindly let me know as soon as possible how many birds you are going to send me as an exchange, so that I can take steps to send you the same number along with the extra one promised against the painting which you had the kindness to send me early this year.

As to the lot of birds which I had reserved for you, this was in accordance with the wishes which you had expressed in your letter of February 19th. when you said that you wished to have my surplus birds.

I then told Shaw that this year they would be going to the States. and that he would have to do without. It is a marvellous lot, about 30 pairs, and I am sure Shaw will be delighted to have it after all, although he was not prepared to take them owing to my statement about it.

With kindest regards and all good wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year, and all successes with the birds, believe me, dear Mr. Ford,

Yours most sincerely

R. Gurnay
André Dubois

P. S. re ringless birds, except in cases accidental, like that with La Tache, we consider all those birds without a ring as stolen. or something of the kind...

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 9th. April 1925

61, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

My dear Friend,

I am duly in receipt of your letters up to that of March 25th.

I shall answer same in full details within a few days, as I am very busy just now training my team of racers for the season beginning on the first Sunday in May next, and will make the best of our beautiful weather, of which we have an exceptionnal spell just now.

Re grains, I have ordered for you 300 kilos of tares and 100 kilos of beans as I feed my birds on. You may safely keep them for two years without any fear of doing your birds the slightest harm.

I shall forward the bill when the costs have been paid.

Many thanks also for your draft of frs. 160.- covering the share of expenses re the Dardenne birds of your friend.

Re Curtis' adv. concerning the Bastin birds, it is all a shameless lie, and I offer to challenge anyone for any illimited amount if it can be proved that Bastin ever beat me these last 19 years. During that unbroken number of years, I have been the undisputed champion of my Club, the strongest of Verviers, that is the Sport Colombophile. It was really the reason why Bastin, one of the principal founders of my club, retired from it and went to the Fédération Colombophile, where he now is since several years. As it was an absolute rule here in Verviers that no one could be a member of two clubs at once, I could not go to his new club and beat him on the spot, but there is not the slightest question about it that my club is the stronger of the two, by far, and that Bastin left it to avoid my competition.

Now that rule has been reversed, since the end of last season, and as we are now allowed to belong to the two clubs, I have taken my membership in his club too for this season, and we shall see where he will be at the end of the races.

Meanwhile, I am awaiting the paper the paper of which you promise to send me a copy, and shall get in touch with the editor so as to correct any of the inaccuracies Mr. Curtis may have thought fit to have printed

After all, it all is but advertisement, and one ought to laugh at it all; my opinion is that the birds themselves do the advertisement better than their owners could ever do it, and mine have done enough up to now to prove what they are made of. After their records, what is the use of paid adv.?

Yours most sincerely,

Pour R. Gurnay



R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE May 7th. 1925

62, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th. ult. and I sent you a few days ago a picture of my lofts, showing the disposition of same, and how the birds are being separated for the application of my system.

By the way, I never received the copy of the paper in which Mr. Curtis advertises his birds with some lies about Bastin's performances.

I should very much like to receive same, as I intend to put things right with that gentleman, not allowing anyone to advertise, even in your country, in a way detrimental to myself.

I also wonder what you have done in the way of putting things right with the Heuvelman's affair ?

Now, concerning the particulars which you want me to let you have with regards the flying of your birds in the widowhood system, , I cannot tell you anything more than I have told you already, but you ought not to take any notice of what is being printed in the papers, not even in our papers.

Mind that newspaper men have heard a dog bark somewhere, they do not know where, nor how, nor why, but they will explain things to their readers..... They of course want to make their respective papers as interesting as possible, but in short, they know nothing about the game they try to explain. If they knew, they would be jolly careful not to give the tip to anyone, but to keep it to themselves and make the most of it.

If I were fool enough to correct their statements, they would get to know more than I intend them to, but their writings do not affect me in the least, and the more stupidities they publish the better. So much worse for those who rely upon them..

If, mated to your racers, there are a few hens which you value, you ought, after breeding their first hatch with that cock-racer~~xxx~~ on the widowhood system, to give them another mate in another loft, and to the racers give them other hens which you do not like so much for the rest of the season, providing they are in a fit state to "attract" their mate when he is allowed to see them.

Thus your good hens will be kept mated for the season, and beside your racers will have a hen which will answer the purpose of "warming them up" when needed for the races and after they come home from the races too.

Quite naturally, the hens kept alone without males will mate together after a time, but in order to avoid that as much as possible, do not feed them too much. I say as much as possible, for it is impossible to prevent it altogether.

Up to now, I have competed in four races (two Sundays) and in the four cases I have pocketed all the money. On the first Sunday, I win 7 prizes, among which 2nd. and 8th. along with some 7000 francs.

R. GURNAY

(Suite)

On Sunday last, I score 10 prizes with 17 birds competing in 1500 competitors, at 200 miles distance.

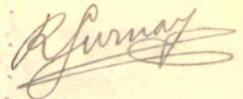
My prizes are: 3, 4, 6, 7, 13, 18, 33, 36, 45 and 135th.

There were 6 prizes in the big pools, which I win, every one of them, thus cashing some 10000 francs.

To-day, I am sending 10 birds for next Sunday's race, 250 miles, and have much hope of a big success again.

For your guidance, Bastin and Dardenne are nowhere, yet they had heavily staked their birds on both occasions.

Yours most sincerely,



R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 14 th. May 1925

61, Rue aux Laines

Dear Mr. Ford,

I am duly in receipt of your kind letter dated April 30., but up to now, I have not received the paper with the Curtis advert. which you told me previously you were sending on.

I should like to have it as soon as possible, also to know what has been done in the Heuvelmans' affair, both these things badly wanting being settled without any further delay.

Here is the way how exactly I feed my racers during the racing season. Take as an exemple a loft containing 10 racers.

In all, 30 grammes (that is just above an ounce) per day and per head, half of it after the morning, and the other half after the evening exercise.

To start with, that flight over the loft should be 20 minutes, the the next day 30, then 40 and so on until you reach 60 minutes both morning and evening.

You then let the birds drop in the loft and you scatter on the floor (which has been well cleaned) some 50 grammes of tares and 25 grammes of peas. Of course, the loft being shut, so as to prevent the birds flying out again, you wait until they have picked up everything of that 75 grammes of food, which makes half of their meal.

Then you take the other half of the meal, consisting of 75 other grammes made up with 50% hemp, 25% red rape seed and 25% canary seed, and you put a tenth of that ration into each nest-box, being about 7½ grammes. to each bird.

Thus you come to 150 grammes for each meal, or 300 grammes per day for 10 birds.

As you see, you have indeed two mixtures to get ready, that of peas and tares as the first helping on the floor, and the other of hemp, rape and canary seed given out individually in the nest-boxes, but only after the first helping has been cleared away.

About the middle of the racing season, when the best races are on, and so as to excite the birds still more, you alter the mixture of small grains above by adding some yoke of eggs and a spoonful of honey along with crumps of toasted bread. You make up all that into a mixture which you dry up either in the sun, or indoors when weather is bad.

For the moult, the chipped beef which you mention is all right, ground, of course. Brimstone is sulfur powdered, nothing else.

That system of feeding you should start about a fortnight before your first training toss. (& the exercise too.)

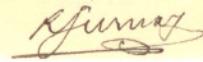
It would be better not to have anything in the loft to perch on.

Each bird ought to have but its nest-box, the front of which is a plank that may serve to shut it in the box. *Herewith a drawing of the nest-boxes.*

I am sorry I overlooked my promise to send you some photos of my birds after the Leeds show. Just now, I have no copies left, but I shall ask for some to be printed and will send them on to you with pleasure.

Last Sunday, that is the 10th. inst. in another disastrous weather rain and fog, I again score second prize and all pools. I lost the first price not being ready, thinking the birds would come later in the day.

Yours very sincerely,



Herewith invoice for the food sent some time ago. I had slightly altered the invoice sent to Mr. A. S. Brown for Customs purposes.

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

Spécialité de Satins laines & coton
Doublures Imprimées

M^r Lee M. Ford Great Falls Doi^e

à R. Gurnay

61. Rue aux Laines, Verviers

Adresse télégraphique:
GURNAY VERVIERS
Téléphone 1192
COMPTE CHÈQUES POSTAUX
N° 9.885

Le 15th May 1925

Le montant des marchandises suivantes lui vendues et expédiées par
A. D. Boone & Co - N.Y. payables ici à _____ jours _____ escompte.

St. Zealand
-22/4/25-

Tout retour, pour être accepté, doit m'être avisé et être effectué dans les 8 jours.

		Per 100 Kgs.	
R. G	300 Kgs. Savas	175	525 -
10/13.	100 " beans	220	220 -
New York.	Carriage to Antwerp		39 85
	Paid the Red Star line for freight		167 65
	& port expenses		
		Frs.	952 50

MEMORANDUM

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

R. GURNAY

ADR. TÉLÉGR. : GURNAY, Verviers

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

COMpte chèques postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE **March 9th. 1925**
61, RUE AUX LAINES

A. M.

Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

Expenses relating to last shipment of birds:

Basket and trough	Frs. 50.-
Veterinary Certificate	6.25
Cable	23.80
Carriage to Antwerp	11.20 (11.20)
Freight to New-York	<u>188.75</u>
	Frs. 280.-

These expenses being for 7 birds, three of which were for your good self, the pro-rata amount due by your friend for his four Dardenne birds works out at frs. 160.-, which kindly request him to remit at his earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

R. Gurnay



Park Hotel

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

Carnival, January 13-25.

Mr. Lee H. Ford.

Montana.

Dear Sir,

My friend Jurnay, being in Switzerland for 15 days, his secretary has send me this letter, and I begged him to be so kind to translate the same, in English as I do not understand the language enough, not to make a mistake.

Friend Jurnay figures when he return from Switzerland to come and select the two pigeons you bought. Believe me that under all circumstance, you will be well satisfied.



Park Hotel

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

all those who have ²pigeons from me have always been well pleased. I am a manufacturer, not a merchant of pigeons. It is through my friend Gurnay, that I have decided to sell my first pigeons, ^{in quantity} three years ago. I have received a letter of congratulation from a certain M^r: Collette, who had very good luck with them, and who made an exchange of young ones with a certain M^r: Hollivet, who bought a pair of my pigeons. The two exchanged young ones, have made two first prizes in a very severe weather, and this M^r: Collette, wrote me a very flattering letter, regards my pigeons.



Park Hotel

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

3

The very few friends who have occasionally had the opportunity to obtain some pigeons from me always had very good success with them.

My pigeons distinguish ~~at~~ themselves in severe fair weather, and in long distance races. Mr. Grunway who is the thought for several years, will tell you without hesitation, that he is afraid of me above all as a competitor. This is the finest tribute I can give to my pigeons.

I am very sure ^{that your friends} you will be well satisfied with the results he will have with my pigeons, as I never sell anything but good, nothing without pity, anything incapable and weak.

My pigeons have very nice heads.



Park Hotel

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

4

magnificent eyes, in general dark chestnut, one in a while violet. Their breast is wide and they are well feathered. I will leave it to Mr. Gurnay to look for the best in your interest. Rather than the money I would try to find entirely satisfactory to your friend.

You talked to me about a blue hen, and a hecker male mentioned in the English. Raising pigeons, and you asked me if this pigeons are in the price of 200 pounds sterling. Willing to show my good sportsmanship towards the English, I told them the blue hen I refused lots of money for the same. Regards to the male



Park Hotel

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

I hope to have ² plenty of success with him in 1925. he is not for sale this year. I want to use this bird of great value, to defend my home. I cannot dispose of so many good pigeons in one year, without the danger of my news. I figure to make a magnificent breeding in 1925. and I will dispose at the end of the year, of half of them.

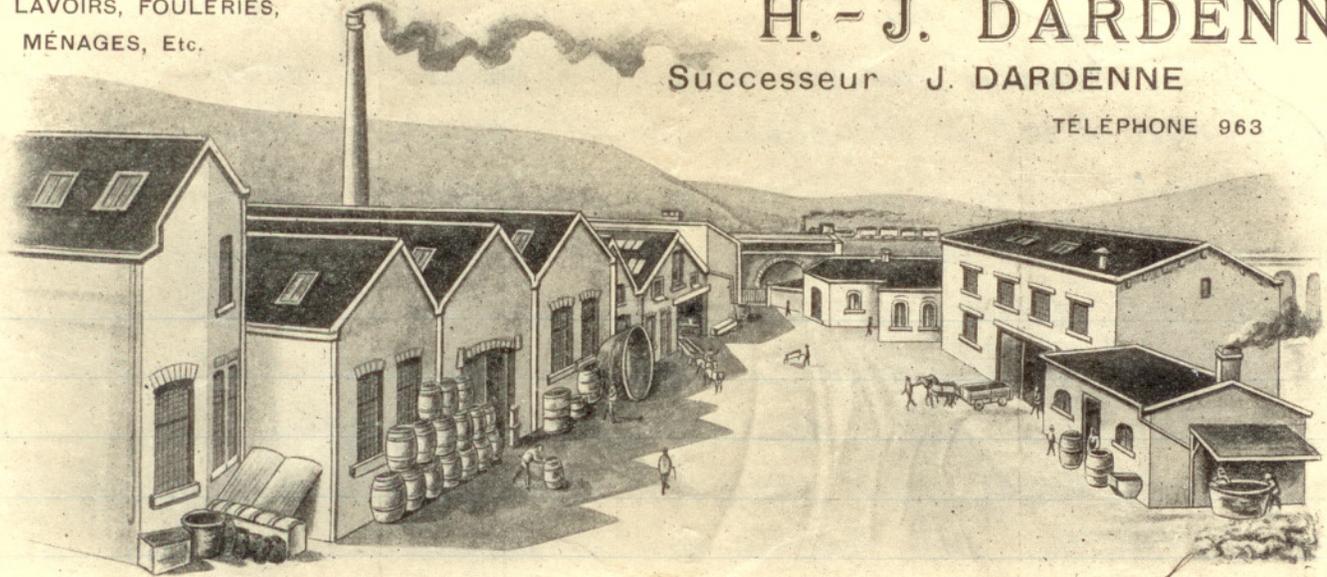
In the hope you will be satisfied with your purchase, and I wish you success with your pigeons this year.

Yours truly,
J. A. Adams.

FABRIQUE DE SAVONS
pour LAVOIRS, FOULERIES,
MÉNAGES, Etc.

H. - J. DARDENNE
Successeur J. DARDENNE

TÉLÉPHONE 963



PREMIÈRES RÉCOMPENSES EN 1813
Fondée en 1762

Ensival, le 13 Janvier 1915
Heid des Fawes

Monsieur Lee W. Ford
Montana (Amérique)

Cher Monsieur,

Mon ami Gurnay est en Suisse pour quinze jours son employé m'a communiqué cette lettre que je l'ai prié de lire vu que me trouvant ne connaissant pas assez l'anglais je ne pouvais me tromper.

L'ami Gurnay compte à son retour de Suisse venir chercher les deux couples de pigeons que vous avez achetés. Soyez sûr que tous les rapports nous seront très bons. Tous ceux qui ont des pigeons de chez moi ont toujours été très contents. Je suis industriel et non marchand de pigeons. C'est au les instances de mon ami Gurnay que j'ai été à vendre les pigeons en Amérique et j'y ai mis ans. J'ai reçu une lettre de félicitation et un Monsieur Colett qui avait les pigeons avec et qui avait fait un échange de pigeons avec un Monsieur Holleret qui avait acheté aussi un couple de mes pigeons. Les deux pigeons échangés ont été pour lui les deux pigeons.

Jeux un temps très dur et ce Monsieur Bolette m'écrivait une
Lettre très flatteuse sur mes pigeons. Les quelques bons amis qui ont eu
la chance d'obtenir des pigeons de chez moi ont obtenu beaucoup de
succès avec. Mes pigeons se distinguent surtout pour l'empis et
l'air et sur les voyages de nuit. Monsieur Gurnay qui est le
plus fort depuis les années vous dira en toute franchise que
c'est moi qui il craint le plus comme concurrent, c'est le
plus bel élong que je puisse faire de mes pigeons.

Je suis sûr d'avance que votre ami sera très satisfait du résultat
qu'il obtiendra avec mes pigeons ne vendant jamais que de
bon et tenant sans faute les incassables au à faible coût.

Mes pigeons ont de belle tête, yeux magnifiques généralement gris-noirs,
de temps à autre violet, leur posture est large et ils sont pleins de
plumes. Je laisserai donc faire mon ami Gurnay au mieux de vos
intérêts, tenant plus qu'à l'argent en cherchant à donner entière
satisfaction à votre ami.

Vous me parlez de la femelle bleue et du mâle lavali dont parle le
Racany Pigeon anglais et vous me demandez si ces pigeons sont dans le prix
de 200 livres Sterling. Vouloir faire preuve de largesse vis à vis des
anglais j'ai mis dans le lot de vente pigeons que je leur avais vendus
la belle femelle bleue que j'avais eue pour beaucoup d'argent à
mon jeune. Quant au mâle lavali dont j'ai beaucoup de
succès en 1792 il n'est pas à vendre cette année tant profité
de cet oiseaux de grande valeur pour défendre ma chance. Je
ne puis me défendre la même année d'autant bons pigeons sans courir
à l'insuccès. Je compte en 1793 faire un magnifique élong donc
je céderai la moitié au choix en fin de l'année.

Donn l'espérance que vous serez satisfait de votre achat je reste en vous
souhaitant beaucoup de succès avec vos pigeons dans les concours
cette année, votre dévoué

J. d'Ardenne
JG

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 26th. January 1925

6r, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letters, the last of which dated 9th. inst. containing a draft for Frs. 3940.- value of 200 dollars in settlement of the second pair of Mr. D'Ardenne's birds for your friend.

I have to-day paid a visit to Mr. D'Ardenne in order to make the selection of the birds, and I must say at once that this has been done with your friend's interest in view.

Dark IO74644-1924 has this year won a first prize at 145 miles - Hen
Cheqrd. IO74652-4 " is a son of his good bird named the Angoulême- Cock
" IO29409-1923 off his famous bird called his Leluron Hen
Blue IO74658-1924 Hen cock

You may rest convinced that Mr. D'Ardenne did not like to part with those birds, for he did not think at first that it would be my choice. To my mind, they are the very best that could have been selected from his loft, and I very much doubt that anyone else could have obtained them from him.

As I just hear that the liner sails on the 28th. inst. I shall consign the birds to Messrs. A.D. Boone & Co. as directed by your last letter, and I shall wire you to-morrow the name of the ship and the date of her sailing, so that you may warn Mr. Hagedorn to expect the consignment.

As to myself, I am sending you at the same time a magnificent cheqrd. cock 418398-21 in acknowledgement of your magnificent portrait of Bon Bleu. This bird is son of the bird which has won the Excellency Prize at all Shows, including the International Show held at Brussels last month. As you like the long distance flyers, you will thus have the very type you want, for last year he won the 12th. prize at the National Race Bordeaux, 500 miles. He is a superb racer with one fault, that is that, even after having flown from 5 a.m. till 8 p.m. he is quite willing to spend a quarter or half an hour flying over the loft before trapping, thus letting prizes go to other birds coming later than him.

In exchange of the birds which you intend sending me, I am sending you a young blue IO73262-24, son of the nest-mate of Favori, which is kept for breeding purposes.

And as I have noticed several times that you were very keen on Bricoux' birds, I take this opportunity of letting you have a late bred young red I361721-24 which I have had this way.

Dr. Bricoux is an intimate friend of Mr. L. Fraigneux, a Liège fancier, judge at the Commercial Court of Liège, who also is a great friend of mine. Last year, I let him have the father of the cheqrd. bird which I send you this time, in order to breed a pair of youngsters off him. His loft is composed of all first class Bricoux, and in acknowledgement of my loan of that breeder, he sent me a pair of late-bred Bricoux of his breeding, of which I keep one and send you the other.

I do not think I could do any better to please you, as you have so

R. GURNAY

(Suite)

often enquired about that strain.

You may, if you like, enquire to Mr. L. Fraigneux

13. Rue Douffet

L I E G E

and make sure that what I tell you about the origin of that red bird is the truth.

Now, if you have sent me two pairs of youngsters, I shall owe you one pair, and in that case I suggest to breed you one fine pair this next spring, and you might if you like send me your own rings which I should then put on to them.

I trust all this will satisfy you to the full, and I shall be glad to hear from you as soon as possible after you have received the birds.

Re pedigrees, I have not received your blanks, which you said you were enclosing in your last letter, and if you will kindly forward them, I shall have them filled in and returned at once.

Now, as to being my representative in the States, I should like to know definitely whether you would like to take care of my interest on the American market, or not, as I ought to take steps in that direction, and the sooner you let me know definitely your intentions the better.

Re Heuvelmans:

I am surely not going to apologize to that fellow, who seems to be as disreputable as possible, whatever his private opinion about his obscure self may be.

All his humbug about having told but four persons about the rumours he had "heard" is sheer lie, and he adds another lie to it when he says that it was all attributable to another fancier of this town with a name sounding much like mine.

Even if he has spoken to four people only, it is no doubt that it has become a snowball and that it has done untold harm to my reputation and that of my strain.

Consequently, I would ask you not only to have a full correction published in the Fancy press, but I would ~~like~~ like same accompanied by the publication of the Fédération Colombophile Belge's certificate, of which you have a copy. This was issued at the personal request of that man Heuvelmans, and thus he cannot complain at seeing it published. Why should it be kept to himself alone, when he did not keep the so-called rumours to himself also, at least before making sure that they were well founded, had such been the case.

Of course, I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANYTHING WHICH YOU WILL HAVE PUBLISHED, and I am the man to squate up accounts with Heuvelmans if he be not pleased with the way I defend my honour. I did not reply to his letter because I deem him beneath contempt, as, as soon as he had those certificates which he required before correcting his statements, he backed out of his promise to correct fully, and simply wanted to write to those four people (and what has he written, we do not know)

I shall thus rely upon you to have that case cleared fully without any further delay, and beg you to accept my best thanks for same.

With my best wishes for the next racing season, and all kindest regards, believe me,

Dear Mr. Ford,

Yours most sincerely,

P.S. The so-called official pedigrees which he mentions in his letter are merely export-permits issued by our War Department which controls the Fédération Colombophile Belge. What is he boasting about?



R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE March 9th. 1925

61, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

My dear Friend,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favours dated Jan. 24. and 27. and Febr. 9. 10. and 13, also at the last minute of that of the 18th. inst. You must pardon my longdelay in replying to all the aforesaid, but my correspondent in your language has been away on a three weeks' holiday in the South of France and has just returned to-day.

First of all, let me thank you again for the four birds received and tell you that, as a lot, they are all right.

The best of all is 5239 dark, unfortunately he has been so beaten in the basket that I wonder however he has been able to reach Verviers alive. At Antwerp, the forwarding agent has had to open the basket and place a separation so as to keep him alone outside the other's reach.

5217 also is good, but the wing rather too ~~xxx~~ stiff, while 5361 is the best in that respect. 5231 too is all right, but as a general rule they have the feathers too dry, and my belief was that you would have obtained better birds off those which you have received from me.

I cannot understand how it has happened nor where the fault lies; this, mind you, is not a reproach, for I confirm that what I have received is good and would satisfy most fanciers, but with what you have you should have done better yet, and have bred irreproachable youngsters

With regards their dry feathering, I think the fault lies with the food they have been given during the moult and which should have contained much colza-seed and linseed.

For breeding purposes, this is what I feed the parents on:
Tares 30%; beans 15%; wheat 25%; colza seed 15% and linseed 15%.

For your matings, as far as possible, always pair a dark coloured bird with a lighter coloured (for example a bronze with a blue hen is ideal to my mind).

Thus, the Bordeaux bird which you now have is a superb type, yet his eyes ought to be a shade darker; you should mate him to a young dark hen if possible with dark chestnut eyes; any hen will do if dark with dark eyes, be her from the Tache or Noyon or any other good parentage.

By this same mail, I am sending you a few pages of a book which I have always considered very good indeed, and which will give you full satisfaction with regards to the questions you put to me, and should there be a few points which you do not understand, I am at your disposal for adding special explanations, for I mean to have no secrets with you.

About the widowhood system, I have fully explained the matter to you in former letters, and the disposition of your loft-rooms as sketched is quite good. leaving nr. 5 for your granary. As said, you exercise your cocks for an hour both morning and evening, and feed them after their flying, twice a day only. After their morning practice you shut them in, blind down, and let all the other birds free until 4 p.m. when you get them all in for good, before flying your racers.

You are thus sure to obtain the greatest speed in the races, and you will also be very careful, as soon as your racers come back either from training or racing stages, to let them find their mate in the nest on arrival, and allow them together for half-an-hour.

As you may have some extra hens that would do well in the races, they should be mated to the breeders, and raced when they are sitting or when they have youngsters some 5 to 12 days old.

By this same post, with that part of the book referred to, I am also sending both Dardenne and my own pedigrees.

Re Heuvelmans, I had already requested him to correct his statements through the Press, a thing which he has been careful not to do.

You will give me the greatest pleasure in putting that matter right on my account, as though it were for your self.

As for my representation in your country, I quite agree with your point of view, and beg of you kindly to drop the matter. If some day by the end of the year I have a lot to sell, I may mention it to you without any engagement whatever. As you know, I always have, at the end of the year, some 40 to 45 pairs on sale, which on no account I will sell in this country. There are here a number of unscrupulous people living at the expenses of fools who happen to believe in what they say or write in the papers. Many have sold or offered on sale Gurnay birds, and who never had set eyes on my loft nor had ever seen a bird of mine or of my strain. It is a pity, but such is the world.

Re your letter of the 18th. inst. I am glad that you are pleased with the Bordeaux bird, and surely you will have seen that my strain is different to the others. As you may well imagine, I always have people calling to see my birds, and their impression, invariably, is that they are in the Pigeons' paradise, as much for beauty as for fitness in all respects.

Re Mr. Paget, I am anything but a writer, and however much I would like to please him, I feel absolutely unable to set down to write anything in the way of an article for his book. I am sending you the proof of a book written by a friend of mine, which may probably help Mr. Paget, and should there be any details which he might like to name for fuller development, I shall be delighted to give him all details required, so that he might turn them into a proper article for his book.

To-day again, just before closing the office, your letter of the 24th. reaches me, and I am awfully sorry to hear that Mr. Conrad is not pleased with the Dardenne birds.

But however much I would like to help your friend, I feel that I cannot mention his proposals to Mr. D'Ardenne; this is absolutely too delicate a matter for me to deal with. I have done my best for you when I went selecting those four birds in the lot placed for that purpose at my disposal by Mr. Dardenne, and what would he think if I were to go to him now and propose such a bargain to him?

If such a thing happened to me, there would be no hesitation whatever: my birds would come back and the money returned in full, but here I must even ignore that you have proposed that bargain to me for transmission to Dardenne. As I know him, he would be certain that I gave bad informations regarding his birds, and I cannot afford a feud with any fancier here, least of all for someone who deliberately bought his birds without ever asking me my opinion. You see how bad it is to be an intermediary in such matters: I did it just for you, for fear of hurting you if I refused and lest you should have thought that I feared the competition of his birds. Now there

we are, and nobody seems to be pleased. However, I cannot brook the subject with Dardenne, and your friend ought to write direct, if at all possible in French. Perhaps he might find some excuse, such as an unexpected change in his position that compels him to go and settle abroad, and possibly Dardenne would accept his proposal.

I had no profit whatever on the bargain, and when I settled with him the amount of Frs.7890.--that was in a café, and I was even left to pay for the drinks. This confidentially, of course.

With regards to My Mealy, I must say that the price asked for is no consideration, for even a high price has never induced me to do away with a bird I like. Now, there are but six weeks before we start our races, all my birds are mated and sitting on eggs about 8 days, and I have kept but my strict necessary number for the season: 48 pairs with but 36 racers: 18 under two years, and 18 of two or more years of age. This is very little indeed for all the races which we have to compete in.

I had offered you that bird last year before my selection, as an extra bargain, and if nothing untoward happens to him, you will see that he will bring me in a lot more than the price quoted to you.

Thus, I feel unable to part with him at this juncture, and by next fall, I shall let you know if I have a special bargain to offer.

With all kindest regards and good wishes for the coming season, believe me, dear Mr. Ford,

Yours very sincerely,

Pour R. Gurnay

Gedawick