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WHAT'S FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER?

The answer to that question is at Olympic, at the National Poultry Show: because Christmas dinner's quite unthinkable without a main dish of something that began life with feathers on. Not that Indian ducks or the winning 35-lb. Bronze Turkey cock are for eating, or plucking by this machine yet awhile. Really, any sensible bird would fly a mile from such apparatus. The average chicken has about 5,000 feathers. In a matter of seconds, short back and sides, the lot. And the next bird, please.

Russia ordered 5,000 day-old chicks. They'll fly to Moscow - in a plane, of course. Now for the biggest turkey in the show, a heavyweight champion if ever you saw one. At the weigh-in he was 53 lbs, 9 oz. Enough for a meal for 100 people.

Another heavyweight, happily on his feet again, Henry Cooper, presented the trophy to the man who bred the bird, Hugh Arnold, of Tarvin, Cheshire. At Australia House, meet another giant, a Xmas pudding, a succulent monster of 160 lbs. Full of admiration were the Lord Mayor and Sir Eric Harrison, Australian High Commissioner.

Yes, it's a present from Down Under, so on with the brandy and give it the full treatment.

The ingredients were presented by Australian dried fruit growers, made up into a pudding of a thousand helpings. In it, there's an ounce of pure gold. The lucky finder will get a cheque for its value, £12-ten. So all the best to everybody, especially the Lord Mayor and Sir Eric.