

## 'OLD 86'

The very first issue of The Racing Pigeon published on April 20th 1898 carried a picture of a pigeon on its banner, it was of a blue chequer captioned 'Old 86'. Many may wonder who 'Old 86' was. It was in fact one of J W Logan's pigeons, a blue chequer cock, bred in 1879 and in those pioneering days became quite a sensation because of its racing provess. In 1882 it flew Arras, 1883 3rd Rennes, 1884 1<sup>st</sup> Rennes and also flew La Rochelle, did not race in 1885, in 1886 'Old 86' was 1<sup>st</sup> Ventnor, 1st Rennes and 1st La Rochelle.

'Old 86' was bred from a cock of the N Barker strain who was a winner from Montauban, when paired to a hen presented to J W Logan by J O Allen. It is interesting to note that Logan treated his pigeons with great care, for 'Old 86' was three years old before being sent across the Channel. It was in 1924, that advancing years brought an end to racing for J W Logan and his pigeons were sold at auction in London on January 26th 1924. The sale was a sensation, a total of 104 birds sold for £3,721.

Above 'Old 86' on the banner heading of an early edition of The Racing Pigeon