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The Exhibition of Fruits

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THE successful exhibition of fruit is a study that largely comes through practice and experience. It requires a knowledge of what perfection is in the different varieties, as well as how to exhibit fruit in its most attractive form.

A comparatively small percentage of fruit growers will make any pretence at exhibiting their produce. There are plenty of reasons they may give for not doing so. One frequently heard is that their fruit is not good enough.

There is nothing that will so surely encourage a man to grow good fruit as exhibiting and competing for honors at the various exhibitions. It is largely through our exhibitions that our most prominent judges and pomologists get their experience, as here they can see large numbers of fruits of the various varieties, grown under different conditions, competing side by side. No one man can be expected to grow all varieties, and have them at their very best. Thus his experience will be more or less limited until he comes in contact with the larger exhibitions.

Another reason that is sometimes given by the average man for not exhibiting is,—he would have no chance against the larger exhibitors some of whom have been exhibiting for years on a large

scale. Naturally they have profited by their past experience and know just how to get the most out of their fruits, not only in exhibiting but also in growing it. But this does not in any way preclude the small grower from securing a fair share of the awards.

JUDGING

Judging is a difficult position for any man, even of wide experience, especially at the larger exhibitions, and it is true judges do not always agree in their decisions. When we consider that judging consists of balancing up the good and bad points of the different exhibits and then placing them in their relative positions, we can see how difficult it would be to obtain at all times the same placing by various judges. Frequently they are called upon to judge fruits which are below the average and which contain many defects. Then it may be a case of choosing the plate with the least or less serious defects, and in such decisions there may be room for dispute.

Our exhibitions have been one means of training our fruit growers and professional horticulturists in pomology and giving them the practice and experience necessary to qualify as judges. Any professional or amateur fruit grower may feel sure that he will be given a fair

chance at our exhibitions even when competing with the largest exhibitors.

To win a prize should be an honor more highly prized than it sometimes is. At some of the fruit exhibitions as many as fifty to a hundred exhibitors may be competing in the same class for some of our better known fruits, and competition must of course be keen. Those who are unsuccessful—if having the right spirit—will make even greater effort the next year to produce the prize winning fruit.

SELECTING THE FRUIT

The selection of fruits for exhibition purposes will bring out all the finer points of the different fruits, and one cannot really know the number they may possess until he comes in contact with individual fruits in making these selections. A tree of Crawford peaches will have no two alike and when one comes to select five specimens for a plate, he should have some ideal in mind and each should conform as nearly as possible to that ideal. This tends to produce uniformity which should be one of the first things required, even if the plate does not possess some other quality in as high a state as one would like. An unusually large or very highly colored specimen on a plate with others, will



A British Columbia Packing School in Operation. These Schools are conducted in Leading Fruit Districts and have been Productive of much good.