

instrumental in introducing improved varieties into more than one farm garden.

2. In each class of fruit, a few of the leading varieties best adapted to the section, should be named on the list. In fact these lists should be so carefully prepared that they might be taken as a reliable guide by intending planters. If confidence were established in the reliability of these lists, no better means of education along these lines could be given than the annual display of varieties brought out at the fall fair. The list of varieties for which prizes should be offered would naturally vary with the different sections of the country, as a variety that would be excellent for one section might be entirely unsuitable for another. The reports of our Fruit Experiment Stations should be a guide in preparing such lists. In the majority of cases the lists at present are either false guides, or no guide at all. In one list only three classes of fruit are called for, and these are collections of apples, pears and grapes, not a single variety being mentioned. On this same list 34 breeds of chickens are named, there being 83 sections for the entry of poultry. This list is a credit to the enterprise of the poultry fanciers of that section; but if so many classes and entries are necessary for poultry, of which not one farmer in twenty has a pure bred flock, and those who have, keep, as a rule, but one breed, how much more necessary that some encouragement should be given to the exhibition of fruits, of which most farmers have not only several kinds, but a number of varieties of each kind? On other lists where varieties are mentioned, lots of old worthless kinds, which should have been discarded years ago, are still being encouraged by prizes being offered year after year; while lots of valuable varieties of more recent introduction are never mentioned. In such cases the lists are false guides and are doing positive harm.

3. Offering prizes for largest collection of

varieties should be discontinued. The aim should be to encourage the planting of fewer varieties, and not large collections of varieties, many of which are worthless. It is freely admitted by those in the export apple trade that the mixed shipments of many varieties in small lots are injuring our reputation in the British markets. What that market wants is a few of our best varieties in larger quantities. The fall fair exhibit of varieties, as brought out by a good prize list, should be an education as to the requirements of the local and foreign markets. The Goderich prize list is excellent in this particular. In apples it calls for three small collections, viz.: 6 best dessert varieties; 6 best cooking varieties, and 6 best export varieties.

4. Little or nothing is gained and much dissatisfaction and hard feeling is often engendered by trying to class varieties as either autumn or winter. Nearly every fall disputes are referred to us to settle whether the Ribston, or Wealthy, or some other variety should be classed as fall or winter, whereas the classing of it as either one or the other will not in the least alter its season of maturing. In southern sections, it will mature as usual in the fall, while in northern sections it may keep most of the winter; and, as to just where the dividing line would be in each case would be difficult to determine; and when determined would make very little, if any, difference. In preparing a list of varieties they should, of course, be selected so as to cover the season of maturing from early to late, in which case there would naturally be most of the long-keeping sorts; and in judging collections, the seasons covered by the varieties shown be taken into account by the judges.

5. At the end of each list of varieties of each class of fruit there should be one entry for "any other named variety." This permits the exhibition of good varieties which may not be mentioned on the list. Following this should