

The Fourth Ontario Horticultural Exhibition

MORE entries, a higher average quality of exhibits, and the fact that it proved a financial success, made the fourth Ontario Horticultural Exhibition, held in Toronto, Nov. 12-16, surpass all its predecessors. The fact that this year the directors of the exhibition will not have a deficit of several hundred dollars to meet, as was the case with each of the three former exhibitions, is one of the most important features of the exhibition, as it is now recognized that the exhibition at last is firmly established. Next year, the directors will not have to use \$800 of their Government grant to pay their debts, as was the case this year. The next exhibition, therefore, should prove an even greater success, financially and otherwise, than was the case this year.

One of the most satisfactory features was the marked improvement in the quality of the exhibits that was noticeable in almost every department. This was true of the boxed fruit in particular, as well as of the chrysanthemums. Many of the vegetables shown were so far superior to anything of the kind ever before displayed at an exhibition in Toronto, they were the cause of general comment. This year entries were received from various points in the United States, as well as from British Columbia, showing that the exhibition is becoming both national and international in its scope. It is now the rallying point each year of the fruit, flower and vegetable growers of the country, and of far-reaching importance in its beneficial effect on the horticultural interests of the Dominion.

The attendant conventions of the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Associations, and of the Ontario Horticultural Association, were full of interest, and successful. The fact that they were held in conjunction with the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition, with its attendant low railway rates from all parts of the province, added to their attendance, interest and educational value.

THE FRUIT EXHIBIT

The fruit department was a great advance on that of past shows. The general arrangement was excellent considering the accommodation afforded. Not only were the exhibits high class in themselves, but they were of great educational value, particularly the fruit in packages, and that shown by the experiment stations. The commercial packages were superior in the matter of packing and material used to those shown last year. The many fruit men who attended the show were much pleased not only with the character of the exhibits, but also with the experience and pointers they gained by associating with growers from other parts of the province.

In quality of specimens and in number of varieties, the county exhibits were excellent. A large range of varieties were shown. The possibilities of each county were brought to the attention of the passers-by and of growers from other parts of the province, in a manner that was conclusive. These exhibits illustrated the latitudes and localities where varieties do best. It was interesting to observe the variations in variety type produced by the varying conditions that prevail in the different counties. The finest display came from the county of Huron.

The plate fruit was well selected and of good quality. The competition in some classes was close and interesting. There is one point that would make this display even more attractive if it were observed by the exhibitors, and that is that competitors should send a few more apples of each variety than the stipulated five. Some times in transit and in handling one or two of the specimens become injured and bruised. It is best, therefore, to have a sufficient number to insure having five sound specimens. The pyramids of apples were fine, but the number of entries was not as large as might be expected.

A great improvement was noticed in the fruit packed in boxes and barrels. Compared with the package exhibits at the past three or four shows, the boxes this year were well made and of proper material, the packing was good and the fruit well graded. Some evidence of amateur work was noticed. Many of the boxes contained a straight pack which, while attractive for exhibition purposes, is too slow for business fruit growers. A diagonal pack is best for export. It can be handled more quickly, and the fruit stands a better chance of reaching its destination in good condition. In most cases, the packers seem to have had no regard for a proper bilge, which is necessary for tightness; the top layer of fruit was altogether too low in the box.

The material used for making the boxes was, in most cases, what is desired. With few exceptions, also, the dimensions of the material approached closely to the ideal that was mentioned by THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST when commenting on the exhibition last year. The tops were nailed only on the ends and not on the sides as well as was done in so many cases last year. Some improvement in nailing, however, can still be made. A properly nailed cover requires only eight nails. At the exhibition, a number of them were fastened with all the way from 15 to 35 nails. The best nails for the purpose are resined ones, not smooth, as were observed in a few cases. As the regulations called for commercial packages, the judges were compelled to disqualify boxes and barrels that lacked the proper brand and marking. Some of the best fruit shown did not receive a prize because this condition was not observed.

The fruit in barrels, also, was high class, and the manner of packing was practically all that could be desired. In two or three cases, the fruit was not packed as level as it should be. It is not difficult to face the head of a barrel of apples, but it requires considerable skill and judgment to "tail" properly. The apples on the tail must be on a uniform plane or the pressure will not be distributed equally. A box press that exerts a total pressure of 400 pounds will distribute, when the apples are level, about 15 or 20 pounds to each apple. This will not injure the fruit, but if two or three apples are slightly higher than the others, and receive 100 pounds or more pressure each, they are bound to be injured and probably crushed. Such injured apples soon would rot, and before the barrel reached its destination, practically all the fruit that it contains would be made unmarketable by slackness and rot.

Last year many of the barrels were bound with only six hoops. This year, all of them had eight hoops, which is better. The judges on the boxes and barrels had a difficult task. A few of their decisions did not meet with the approval of the exhibitors because the latter were not fully acquainted with all the reasons that made the judges place the awards as they did. In the barrel classes, for instance, a few points were deducted for wide staves. Barrels with narrow staves can be depended on to reach their destination in good condition as far as such is affected by the staves. As all staves absorb moisture on the inside from the apples, and naturally become dry on the outside from sun and air, wide ones are apt to warp and thereby spoil the appearance of the barrel and probably injure the fruit as well. On one or two barrels the nailing was bad. Six nails on the first hoop are enough, and no nails should be used on the second. Four or five nails are enough for each liner.

Three collections of fruit in packages for export were a credit to the associations that prepared them. The first prize collection put up by the Norfolk Fruit Growers' Association, Simcoe, Ont., consisted of a collection of apples that could scarcely be beaten anywhere. The character of the packing was excellent and the

quality of the fruit above the ordinary. The collection that won second prize was shown by The St. Catharines Cold Storage and Forwarding Company. It contained a greater variety of fruit than the Norfolk exhibit, and the packing was just as good, but the quality was not up to the standard. Four collections of fruit on plates were very attractive. The first prize was won by The St. Catharines Cold Storage and Forwarding Company, with a large selection of varieties and classes. The Norfolk Association won second prize with apples that were decidedly of superior quality. The third prize was awarded to the Grantham Fruit Growers' Association, which showed a nice collection. The fourth award was placed on an exhibit from the Orillia Horticultural Society, which showed a collection of apples that was most creditable for the district.

Some of the provincial fruit experiment stations were represented with exhibits of educational value. Secretary Linus Woolverton assisted the local experimenters who were present in answering questions of passers-by and growers who desired information respecting varieties and fruit culture in the various localities. The Wentworth station, of which Mr. Murray Pettit, Winona, is director, showed a splendid collection of grapes. The list of varieties was large and the bunches well filled. The Burlington station, directed by Mr. A. W. Peart, sent a nice collection of various fruits. Twenty-five varieties of apples were shown that had been produced on trees grown from scions secured in the Southern States. A nice feature of this exhibit was a collection of 50 varieties of currants, cherries, plums, pears and so forth in bottles. They were put up in antiseptic solutions and were exceedingly attractive. A nice collection of apples was shown by the Simcoe County station, which is under the management of Mr. J. C. Caston, of Craighurst. A large collection of apples was shown by the Bay of Quinte station, of which Mr. W. H. Dempsey, of Trenton, is manager. The size and quality of the fruit was excellent, but the space allotted for its display was not sufficient. The St. Lawrence station, managed by Mr. Harold Jones, Maitland, also showed a fine collection. A large display of fruit in bottles (116) was on exhibition from the Lake Huron station, managed by Mr. A. E. Sherrington. This station also sent 40 varieties of apples and pears. The display was excellent. A small but creditable exhibit was made by the Algoma station, which is managed by Mr. Chas. Young, Richard's Landing, St. Joseph's Island. A decidedly interesting and valuable exhibit was put up by Mr. W. T. Macoun, horticulturist at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. It contained a large variety of apples and grapes. Many new and cross-bred varieties were shown.

DECORATED DINING TABLES

The decorated dining tables did not appear to good advantage beneath the balcony at the rear of the hall. For this reason, they were disappointing. There did not appear to be the same interest taken in them, either from the competitors or the visitors, as in the past. Three of the four exhibitors did not take the trouble to secure proper dining tables and chairs. Instead, they used planks set on benches, and thereby lessened the effect. The table decoration shown by J. H. Dunlop easily won first prize. Messrs. A. Jennings, Toronto; T. Manton, and Geo. Manton, Eglinton, Ont., secured awards in the order mentioned.

THE VEGETABLE EXHIBITS

The display of garden vegetables probably was the finest ever shown in Canada. Everything was of high quality and exhibited in an attractive manner. The entries were large and the competition keen. The judges had a difficult task in placing the awards. They did good work and most of their decisions met with the approval