

warrants it,—and it does,—a national conference should be held every two years. Three years are passing since the last one. It is time for another. Fruit growers individually and fruit growers in conventions should agitate the matter more strenuously. It is regrettable that, through an oversight or carelessness, no concerted expression of opinion was recorded, either by resolution or otherwise, at the recent convention of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association. Most of the members of the organization are looking forward to another conference. An opportunity was lost to impress the authorities at Ottawa with this fact. Associations in other parts of Canada should not neglect the matter. Our growers are entitled to a national conference this winter. If our growers do not recognize the importance of their industry and press, in a concerted manner, for its proper recognition, the Dominion Government cannot be blamed for not giving the attention to these matters that their importance deserves.

Export Apple Trade

Ed., THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST:—I read with interest the letter of Mr. Eben James in your magazine for October and must join issue with him on several points therein mentioned. First, it is quite true that there are several undesirable receivers in Great Britain, but at the same time there are plenty of good firms outside the six who form the Liverpool Fruit Auction and there are also a number of firms who do their business quite as above-board as the aforementioned. I presume that Mr. James' letter is more or less aimed at the firms who do not sell in the Liverpool rooms.

As regards the bona-fides or otherwise of these firms I do not know, but I would like to point out that in selling by private treaty one is able to get quite as good, and in many instances better, prices and also to give buyers greater satisfaction. As an instance, my firm has only been in the apple business for the past two years, but last year we received and sold purely on commission between 30,000 and 40,000 barrels and so far we have not made a dissatisfied sender neither have we received a letter of complaint.

I do not want to argue about the merits of the closed room, but any man of common sense will agree that prices are likely to be better when competition is open to the whole of the customers in a market rather than when it is confined to a selected few.

We sell the whole of our apples by private treaty, and I maintain that a buyer is more likely to get satisfaction by purchasing in that way than he is by auction and at the same time the apples, being open to thorough inspection, the growers are bound to get the highest prices as everything is sold absolutely on its merits; whereas, when stuff is put up for auction, in numbers of instances, buyers have not the time or opportunity of examining before hand, consequently they are always more or less buying in the dark. Therefore, the man who has sent the best stuff is not at all unlikely to get the worst price.—T. J. Poupart, Covent Garden Market, London.

Are you wondering what you can give some of your friends for Christmas? THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST would make a nice gift.

I have received a great deal of useful information through THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.—J. Carlson, Gardener, Maskinonge Co., Que.

The Ontario Horticultural Exhibition

THE horticultural products of Ontario were shown to great advantage at the fifth annual Ontario Horticultural Exhibition held in Toronto in November. The display of fruit, flowers and vegetables was a credit to the province. The total number of entries in all departments exceeded that of last and previous years. The manner in which the St. Lawrence Arena was decorated and the arrangements of the various exhibits received much praise. The show was of great educational value. It impressed the public with a keener appreciation of the horticultural possibilities of the province and it showed the growers themselves what others can do in the way of producing fruits, flowers and vegetables of superior quality.

In the fruit department, the exhibits of some co-operative fruit growers' associations were the objects of much comment and attention. These associations seemed

be a revelation to those unacquainted with the rapid progress that has been made in fruit growing and in fruit operations during the intervening time. While the character of the packing shown at the recent exhibition was almost ideal, room for improvement was noticeable in a few cases. In boxes, some exhibitors failed to pack with due regard for the proper bilge. Because of defects in fruit, packing or package, the judges were compelled, in some instances, to award prizes to exhibits that appeared inferior to the uninformed. In the barrel sections, the packing, with two or three exceptions, was all that could be desired. One of the exceptions had superior fruit on top and small, wormy specimens in the bottom. It was noticeable that most packers are becoming more expert and have learned how to handle and prepare a barrel for market properly. In a few cases it was noticed, however, that where four or five



[A Part of the Vegetable Display at the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition

to have a better idea of the requirements of the Fruit Marks Act and of proper packing and packages than did many of the individual exhibitors. The exhibit that received most praise was that put up by Mr. Jas. E. Johnson, of Simcoe, for the Norfolk Fruit Growers' Association. Sixty varieties were shown in this display. They were not exhibited in competition but were there to demonstrate the capabilities of Norfolk county in the production of high grade fruit. The St. Catharines, Oshawa, Trenton, and Chatham associations also showed fine fruit and their methods of packing were excellent.

The quality of the apples was almost perfection. The color and size of the specimens would compare favorably with those grown anywhere in the world. The apples in boxes and barrels were a superior lot. A comparison between this display and the package exhibit at the first Ontario Horticultural Exhibition held four years ago would

nails in a head liner would have been sufficient, some 15 or 20 were used. There were a few minor defects similar to this, but, on the whole the display was the best ever seen in this country.

While the apple was most in evidence, the more tender fruits were equally deceiving of praise in respect to quality, if not in number of exhibits. Some fine pears and grapes were exhibited on plates and in commercial packages.

The educational value of the fruit department was shown in many ways. The methods of packing were object lessons. The fruit itself showed what can be done by good cultivation, pruning, spraying, and so forth. The intermingling of exhibitors and visitors gave opportunity for learning the views of others and for disseminating practical pointers, and not the least for promoting a feeling of good fellowship between growers in all parts of the province.

The Central Experimental Farm at Otta-