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THE CORELESS APPLE*

SAMPSON MORGAN, BROADSTAIRS, ENGLAND.

I HAD the honor of introducing the first coreless and seedless apple to Great Britain. Its arrival evoked great interest among all classes. I have been asked to put on record an account of this wonderful novelty, and for Canada have selected *The Canadian Horticulturist* for the purpose. The apple was sent to me by the secretary of the Spencer Seedless Apple Co., of Colorado, at the wish of Mr. Spencer, the introducer, with instructions to bring it before the notice of the British public.

A box containing the first coreless apples ever received in England was delivered to me at Broadstairs, January 22. The first specimen taken from the box I put aside for the King. In the near future seedless and coreless apples will be on sale in the fruit shops of every city in the United Kingdom.

The tree produces a cluster of small green leaves, like a disorganized bud. It is here that in due course the fruit forms. There being no petals or fragrance the codling moth, which has wrought great devastation in our orchards, passes it by, and thus few, if any, of the coreless apples are marred or injured by the grub of that pest. The trees are being propagated from buds, no seeds being available.

The permanency of the seedlessness of the Spencer apple is beyond dispute. Over

2,500 trees are already in hand, and the stock is being extended. Arrangements are in progress to ensure ample supplies of these wonderful novelties in England.

The Spencer seedless apple is not the first seedless apple which has been grown. Probably half a dozen trees have appeared at different places bearing apples without seeds. Besides, the apples which grew on the original trees had little juice, and being small, were of no commercial value. The originator of the Spencer seedless apple first succeeded in getting five trees which yielded fruits practically without seeds. From these five trees he budded and grafted to see if they would reproduce themselves. He has now in his orchard trees four, six and eight years old bearing seedless apples.

As these trees stand in close proximity to ordinary apple trees, a small percentage of the apples on the seedless trees have one and sometimes two or three seeds, but they are just as apt to appear in one part of the apple as another. Mr. Spencer has found a seed within one-eighth of an inch of the outer peeling of the apple, far removed from its core. It is impossible for the Spencer seedless apple to bear seeds of their own accord. The seed, which is occasionally found, is produced by the pollen from the common apple trees being carried to the

* In the April issue of *The Horticulturist* will appear an article by Mr. W. T. Macoun, Horticulturist of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, in relation to seedless apples that have been grown in Canada.