

SUBURBAN & COUNTRY LIFE SUPPLEMENT

Horticulture is Going Ahead

Judging from what was seen at the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition—Written by a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society (Eng.), and Vice-President of the National Rose Society



First Prize Specimen Chrysanthemum Flowers.

THE recent autumn exhibition, held under the auspices of the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition, was a success all round, and marks in a sense an era in the progress of this beneficent organization. It was opened by the Hon. Martin Burrell, the Minister of Agriculture of Canada, who sounded the right note in stating that the Exhibition was attracting a great deal of attention. Apart, he said, from the commercial aspect of the question, horticulture was doing much for the country. In the first place, it had the effect of setting large tracts of land, and it was fast removing the old ideas that "any fool could be a farmer," for great skill and concentration were required to successfully rear an orchard.

Sir Henry Pellatt is the President, and in his interesting opening address stated that at the first show there had been 17 barrels and 11 boxes of apples, not one of which was fit for export, while this year there were 5,000 boxes and a large number of barrels, all in condition for abroad. Further, he referred to the increasing interest in horticultural pursuits. People were devoting more time to beautifying their homes and gardening generally than ever before.

The building during the five days that the exhibition remained open was filled with a miscellaneous collection of things from carrots to orchids, and presented a glorious picture of varying colours. Tier upon tier of apples, rare orchids, carnations, and roses, the air filled with subtle scents—a potpourri of many odours. Apples naturally formed the great feature of the display, and the writer has never seen a more imposing and beautiful display of the king of fruits. Not only was the colouring perfect, but the individual specimens were faultless in symmetry; it was a rare apple feast. It is computed that the number shown approached one million. There were contributions from Lambton,

Huron, Brant, Essex, and Peel counties, and the varieties represented consisted for the most part of Spy, King, Baldwin, Spitzenberg, and Snow, or, as it is also called, Fameuse. Alone in this gay throng were several dishes of the famous Blenheim Pippin or Orange apple, the fruits of rare colouring and shape. If this kind can be grown to such perfection as shown on this occasion, it deserves a better place in the orchard and garden.

Huron county exhibited fruits of superb quality and such boxes of Baldwins, Spys and Golden Russets it would be impossible to eclipse. A competitive class of importance was for 300 boxes (half car-load lots) of not more than three varieties, the first prize \$200, and the second \$150. The premier awards went to the Northumberland and Durham Association, who staged superb specimens, and the Norfolk Fruit Growers' Association made a grand showing. Much interest was taken in the exhibit consisting of about 80 boxes and 15 barrels from what is known as the "Spy" county, that of Brant. That apple, Twenty-ounce, King, Baldwin, Ontario, and Wagener were a pleasure to see. A patch of brilliant colouring suggested a little sea of some crimson flower; it came from the Snow or Fameuse fruits, packed ready for shipment, and shown by Mr. John King, of Norfolk county, and other kinds for which separate classes were set apart were Gravenstein, McIntosh, Spy, Wealthy, Baldwin and Greening, and the principal winners were Messrs. John King, G. Goring, St. Catharines; F. G. Stewart, John Winter, H. Youmans, L. A. Parisien, Summerstown; R. H. Johnson, Norfolk county; E. F. Augustine, P. Walker, H. Beckett and Sons, C. Woolley, and Wm. Burt.

Many of the same exhibitors were successful in the pear section, a fruit that is certainly not over-cultivated in the Dominion, though one of the most wholesome and delicious. A dainty morsel is the

Winter Nelis, bubbling over with juice, and grateful to the taste, when the sun shines hot, is the Bosc pear, and sweet memories are recalled by many little feasts of Anjou, Beurre Clairgeau, and Keiffer fruits.

In your last country life supplement I read an article on "Uncommon Vegetables," and that gave me food for reflection. The carrots, potatoes, beets, cauliflowers, and celery were excellently grown, and it is a pleasure to know the department was better represented than in any previous displays, but more variety would be acceptable. Perhaps the framers of the schedule will try and include even more toothsome esculents, at least, give them a trial to encourage a wider choice for the tables of the wealthy.

One of the most conspicuous exhibits was that of honey, a huge pyramid of the clear, nutritious condiment, containing no less than 3,000 pounds. A honey fancier told the writer it was the "finest exhibit ever seen in Canada," and one can well believe it. The Ontario Bee-keepers' Association deserves the warmest praise for such a representation, and we are not forgetful of that from the counties of Halton and Peel. A pretty effect was created by the Bee-keepers' Association of Middlesex, for the reason a praiseworthy attempt had been made to show the honey artistically. There were 1,200 pounds of comb honey in sections, 1,100 pounds of honey in glasses, and 1,500 pounds in tin pails. This reminds one that Mr. Hodgetts, who is secretary of the Fruit Growers' Association and of the whole exhibition, deserves the highest credit for the work he has undertaken to control, and Mr. Douglas, who is responsible for the flower department, must not be forgotten. Both are bringing the exhibition slowly but surely to perfection, so that in the course of time Canada will be prouder still of her fruit, vegetable, and flower displays, a



A Typical Chrysanthemum at the Exhibition, from Sir Henry Pellatt's Famous Garden on the Hill Overlooking Toronto.