

HORTICULTURE

Ontario Horticultural Exhibition

Never before in Canada have fruits, flowers and vegetables been brought together in such large quantities, and showing such high quality, as the exhibits at the fifth Ontario Horticultural Exhibition, held in Toronto last week. The total number of entries in all departments exceeded that of last and previous years. Visitors were lavish in their praises of the manner in which the arena had been decorated and the exhibits arranged. Much credit is due the management and, in particular, to the decorative committee, for their achievements.

Since the establishment of this exhibition, the display of fruit had advanced in quantity and quality each year. The fruit exhibits this year were no exception. They were the finest ever shown in Canada, in apples particularly the quality was away above the average. Lack of space in this issue prevents a detailed report. Generally speaking, the display on crates was excellent. The number and size of the specimens would compare favorably with those grown anywhere in the world. The competition in apples, pears and grapes was keen. The judges had much difficulty in placing the awards. Deserving of special mention were the county exhibits, particularly the one sent and arranged by the Norfolk Fruit Growers' Association. This organization did much to make the exhibition a success, both with its county exhibit and its scores of entries in other departments.

The progressive work of the Ontario Co-operative Fruit Growers' Association was noticeable in all sections of the fruit show. They seemed 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. Each exhibition shows an advance in the quality of these associations. Their displays give practical evidence of their value to their members, who are mostly farmers with small orchards. They have earned an enviable reputation. Besides the Norfolk Association, the St. Catharines Cold Storage and Forwarding Co., the Oshawa Fruit Growers' Limited, and the Forest Fruit Growers' and Forwarding Association were among the leading associations represented at the exhibition.

The fruit in boxes and barrels was a superior lot. The character of the packing was about all that could be desired. In a few cases, however, there was room for improvement. In a few cases some exhibitors failed to pack with due regard for the proper blive. With these few exceptions, the packing was well done. In the barrel section, 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 is noticeable that 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 nuts 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.

The educational value of the fruit department was shown in many ways. The methods of packing were subject 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

practices; pointers, and not this last for promoting a feeling of good fellowship between growers in all parts of the province.

The Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa, had a large exhibit of fruit of Canadian origin. The Ontario Agricultural College exhibited mounted specimens of insects and fungous diseases. The display of preserved fruits was interesting and well put up. It is pleasing to note also, that some of our best firms who have to do with the manufacture of materials used by horticulturists put up displays of their wares. Among them were the Dominion offices of the Potash Syndicate, who showed fertilizers; William Cooper and Nephews, insecticides and fungicides; Harris Abattoir Co., fertilizers; Spramont Co., power sprayers; Bissell Mfg. Co., orchard implements; and some others. These added to the interest of the show. It is hoped that other firms will do likewise at future exhibitions.

The flower and plant display was not quite as large as should have been but quality was there. Deserving of special mention, were the displays of orchids. The decorated dinner tables also attracted much attention.

In the vegetable department, there was greater display. The exhibit was larger in number of entries, and superior in quality, to any previous year. All the stuff was clean and well grown. Most specimens in all classes were the best that can be produced. The general collections were admirable. The vegetable experiment station in Essex County, sent an exhibit that attracted much attention. It contained among other things, sweet potatoes and cotton.

Fruit Growers' Convention

Great interest was taken in the convention of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association held in Toronto last week. There was a representative attendance. The papers, addresses and discussions proved of much value to those present. The following directors were appointed for the ensuing year: R. B. Whyte, Ottawa; Harold Jones, Markham; F. S. Wallbridge, Belleville; W. H. Gibson, Newcastle; R. W. Grerson, Oshawa; A. W. Pearl, Burlington; E. D. Smith, Winona; G. A. Robertson, St. Catharines; James E. Johnson, Simcoe; D. Johnson, Forest; F. Metcalf, Blythe; B. W. Gurney, Paris, and C. L. Stephens, Orillia. The officers will be elected at a meeting of the directors next January. Among the resolutions passed were the following:

Whereas the announcement of the untimely death of Dr. James Fletcher, entomologist and botanist in the Central Experimental Farm, has come as a grievous shock to his many friends, the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, assembled in annual convention at Toronto begs to convey to his sorrowing family and to Dr. Saunders of the staff of the Central Experimental Farm, this expression of its deep regret and of sympathy with them in the loss which they have sustained, a loss which is common to the whole Dominion throughout which the deceased gentleman was well known and highly esteemed.

That it is the opinion of this association that the disease known as "little peach" should be added to the list respecting "black knot" and "yellows," and that the same regulation that ap-

plies to inspectors under the San Jose scale act shall apply to the inspectors under the aforesaid act.

That this association forward its thanks to the Grand Trunk Railway authorities for renovating and enlarging the old Scott street fruit and freight shed in the city of Toronto, all of which is greatly appreciated.

That it is the desire of this association that the Dominion department of agriculture continue in future its assistance in the matter of arranging for cold storage services on certain steamship lines for the carrying of early and tender fruits to Great Britain, and that same be extended as conditions may warrant.

Pressure of space will not allow more than a passing mention of the many excellent reports and addresses that were given. The reports of standing committees on new fruits, nursery control, co-operation, transportation and the Toronto fruit market, contained much valuable information. They will be referred to in subsequent issues. Some excellent addresses on commercial spraying were listened to with much interest. These and all others will be published in part or in full, later. "The Apple Maggot and Blister Leaf Mites" were discussed by Prof. Wm. Lockhead, Macdonald College; "Strawberry Culture," by S. H. Rittenhouse, Jordan Harbor; "Orchard Fertilizers," by Prof. R. Harcourt, O. A. C.; "Twig Blight and Peach Yellows," by Prof. M. B. Waite, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington; "Orchard Surveys," by Prof. C. S. Wilson, Cornell University; "The Shipments of Early Apples and Tender Fruits to Great Britain," by J. A. Ruddick, Ottawa; "The Western Fruit Market," by J. W. Crow, O. A. C.; "Apple Packing and Packages," by Elmer Leach, Oshawa; "Tender Fruit Packing and Packages," by H. L. Roberts, Grimsby; "Markets," by F. G. H. Pattison, Winona; "Observations on Fruit Conditions," by district

representatives of the Department of Agriculture; and "The Commercial Status of our Standard Varieties of Fruits," by a number of practical growers.

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