



## Horticultural Products at the Provincial Exhibition.

### FRUIT.

In consequence of the long season of drought by which so many parts of the country have suffered, it was to be feared that there would be only a poor display of fruit at the present Exhibition; but, notwithstanding this drawback, the show in this department was highly creditable. Much of the success attained was due, however, to the contributions of those who pursue this branch of industry in the fruit-growing district *par excellence* of this country, and who have before contributed largely in Toronto and Hamilton to the magnificent display of Canadian fruit which has raised and established the reputation of the Province in this respect.

The horticultural products were displayed in the upper story of a large building set apart for them, and the various agricultural products, together with dairy produce and implements connected therewith.

The kind of fruit which, this year especially, was both most excellent and most numerously represented, was the different varieties of apples. Pears, with some few but splendid exceptions, were scarcely up to last year's mark; and peaches were, on the whole, both fewer and inferior. Plums were fairly represented, and of grapes there was a good show, though we missed some contributors to last year's Exhibition.

Among the professional nurserymen, Mr. George Leslie, of Toronto, as usual, had a splendid collection of fruits, consisting of nearly every variety in season, and some even almost past their season—such as cherries, raspberries and currants. His show of apples, pears and grapes was especially fine.

Mr. J. P. Williams, of Bloomfield, also exhibited a very excellent collection, among which were no less than 130 varieties of apples and 32 varieties of pears. He had also in bottles, a kind which he has found especially adapted for preserving and canning, and which he terms, from its peculiarly excellent flavor, the peach apple. It is a seedling, and small, but much esteemed by those who have tried it in the manner recommended.

Besides the collection of fruits of all sorts just mentioned, Mr. George Leslie and Mr. Williams had each a beautiful display of special fruits entered under other heads, such as pears, plums and grapes.

Mr. Fleming, of Toronto, exhibited a very fine choice fruits, principally grapes, both open-air and grown under glass.

In the amateur list, there were many contributions of great merit. Most of the exhibitors in this class have won laurels before, and their names are familiar in the records of former exhibitions.

Mr. J. H. Brown, of Niagara, took the first prize for the best twenty varieties of apples, and the second prize for the best ten varieties; also the first prize for the best twelve winter dessert apples (the Montreal Pomme-grise), the first for the best twelve fall cooking apples consisting of the fall Pippin; the first prize for the best four varieties of dessert apples, and a similar distinction for the best four varieties of cooking apples. The first prize was also awarded to him for a magnificent dish of pears, single variety (Flemish Beauty).

Mr. G. Z. Rykert, of St. Catharines, also again distinguished himself in this department, having gained the third prize for the best twenty varieties of apples; the first for the best six varieties of pears; besides other successes.

Mr. R. B. Warden, of Picton, carried off the second prize for the best twenty varieties of apples; the third for the best ten; the third for a collection of twelve winter cooking-apples, and also for the same number of a fall variety (the Alexander), besides other premiums.

Among the other successful exhibitors were Messrs. G. J. Miller, of Virgil; A. Shaw, of Kingston; J. Daly, of Kingston; A. W. Taylor, of Barton; A. F. Currie, of Niagara; J. H. Busch, of Wolfe Island, and others, for the particulars of whose successes we must refer the reader to the Prize List. H. Carduff, of Montreal, exhibited some very magnificent apples, of splendid size (variety Alexander), but as they were not labelled with any name, they were ruled out of competition.

Peaches, some of them very beautiful in appearance, were shown by Messrs. A. F. Currie, of Niagara; H. J. Brown, of Niagara; J. Kilburn, of Beamsville; G. J. Miller, and others. Some good samples of plums were also exhibited by Messrs. Shaw, Kingston; J. Benham, Guelph; T. Watson, Kingston; J. D. Humphrey, of Toronto.

The show of Grapes, if not quite equal to last year's as a whole, possessed some special features of excellence, and was highly creditable. Some very fine samples, grown under glass, were shown by Mr. James Fraser, of Kingston, who carried off several prizes, and furnished altogether a very admirable collection. In the same class, and more or less successful, were Messrs. J. Wright, of Kingston, Rykert, Gutthrie, Shroeder, Hirshfelder, and Kilburn, of Beamsville. Mr. Kilburn's most remarkable display, however, was a large collection of forty-six varieties of grapes grown out of doors, consisting amongst other sorts of the Ontario grape—a very large kind, some of the specimens measuring three inches in circumference—the Delaware, Concord, Iona, Israeli, Rogers' Hybrids and the Clinton. One variety of Rogers' Hybrids, No. 3, could hardly be surpassed in flavor by any grown in the hot-house. The whole collection was extremely creditable, and obtained the distinction of a first prize. The same exhibitor showed some good samples of wine, sweet, dry, and sparkling, and divided the honors of this class with W. W. Kitchen, of Grimsby.

### GARDEN VEGETABLES.

In the same room with the fruits were arranged the next class of horticultural products, namely, garden vegetables—these occupying tables down the side of the room, while the former were displayed along the centre. This collection, though deficient numerically, was generally of very fair quality, and contained some superior specimens of horticultural skill and success. Many of the names which have been again honorably distinguished are familiar as successful competitors in former years; and to these were added some new and local exhibitors. Among the latter was the Rev. Dr. Williamson, who exhibited some very fine red beets and long red carrots, for the latter of which he obtained the 3rd prize; the other prizes for this vegetable having been awarded to G. Croft, of Pittsburg, and Mr. Benham, of Guelph. Without particularizing the awards of each, it may be mentioned that the principal contributors in this class were, besides those already named, Messrs. J. J. Nicholl, E. Scott, S. N. Watts, H. McCauley, C. George, and T. Briggs, of Kingston; A. W. Taylor, of Barton; E. Barden, of Portsmouth; J. D. Humphrey, and R. Gutthrie, of Toronto; G. Z. Rykert, of Grantham; J. Gardiner, of Elizabethtown, and G. J. Miller, of Virgil. Among the vegetables which seemed most deficient was the celery, which this year made a very poor show. Cauliflower and brocoli were also but slenderly represented. Some of the roots were very good. There were also some remarkably fine onions, a good display of tomatoes, and a very handsome show of capsicums, particularly those exhibited by Mr. Rykert. Mr. Gutthrie, of the Toronto Lunatic Asylum, also deserves special mention, both for his success in many of the single varieties and for having furnished the best general collection of vegetables of all sorts. The pursuit of horticulture has, during the past dry season, been attended with peculiar difficulty, and the more praise is therefore due to these exhibitors for the creditable display they have brought together.

### FLOWERS.

For a Provincial Exhibition this class must be pronounced a failure. The display was indeed very meagre, and confined to a small number of exhibitors. J. M. Hirschfelder, of Toronto, had a small collection of greenhouse plants, for which a prize was awarded; also, some good petunias. R. Gutthrie exhibited an elegant floral design in the form of a decorated vase. Mr. G. Leslie had a good collection of dahlias, which took a first prize. J. J. Nicholl was a successful exhibitor of fuchsias, pansies, verbenas, double zinnias and asters. Mr. Flanagan, of Kingston, had also some very beautiful dahlias, asters, and petunias, and extra prizes were awarded to him for a fine specimen of *flox drummondii* and a beautiful collection of gladioli. Ford and Hay, of Flam-boro', and Stacy, of Kingston, were also amongst the contributors to this department, which, it is to be hoped, will be more numerous and extensively represented in future Exhibitions.

In the same room was a solitary exhibitor, J. J. Whitehead, Kingston, of ornamental rustic work. The few specimens shown of this pleasing art, especially an elegant flower basket, were extremely creditable, and would have won distinction in a much larger competition.

## Canadian Fruit District—Reply.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—In reply to a letter in the CANADA FARMER of the 16th inst, I have much pleasure in acceding to your correspondent's request, that some information be given on the subject of Canadian fruit-growing, as affected favorably or the contrary by the soil and climate of various parts of the Province. I have been a long time in the country, and being much interested in the horticultural products of various localities, I have been specially observant in reference thereto. It is unnecessary to compare one portion of the country with another, or to state the several advantages which each portion enjoys. Confining my remarks to the subject of fruit culture, I may truly say that there is but one part of Canada where all the horticultural productions of temperate climates can be brought to perfection. These productions consist of the grape, peach, and the hardier fruits. That locality is situated south of a straight line between Port Talbot on Lake Erie and the forks of the St. Clair river. It is, in fact, the south-western part of that peninsula which is surrounded by three of the five great lakes. To limit the tract still further, there is a region situated between Lake Erie and the Ridge which runs through the Southern townships of the county of Kent, which I do not hesitate to say will ultimately be the garden of this country; and not only that, but perhaps the most favored spot on the continent of America for the production of the fruits which I have above mentioned.

The soil is a black rich loam, formerly covered by heavy forests of maple and beech, the fir tribe being there unknown. The advantages of this tract of country are many. It is not so apt to suffer from drought as are other portions of Canada, and it enjoys an immunity from late frosts in the spring and those early frosts in September which too often destroy the hopes of a whole summer in one night. This is the land of that superb parasitical plant the *Bignonia Grandiflora*, and the *Catalpa* and *Althea frutex* may now be seen there in all their autumn beauty. The pear succeeds well all over the counties of Essex and Kent, attaining a height in many instances of sixty feet. Many of the trees planted by the early French settlers are still in full bearing.

The apple often attains such a size as to render it difficult to recognize the particular variety. The Spitzenburg, particularly, being much larger than in more easterly districts. But it is for the cultivation of the grape and peach that the limited locality above mentioned is peculiarly suited.

Where vines require winter protection the cultivation of the grape is troublesome and expensive, and in fact it cannot be grown extensively. No such protection seems here needed, and ordinary pruning is all that seems necessary.

The Isabella, a poor grape when compared with the Delaware and other recent introductions, is almost the only grape cultivated, but this arises from want of knowledge. The culture of an earlier and better variety of fruit would be attended with much profit.

Of cereals it is unnecessary to speak, for with such a soil and climate as above described the hopes of the most ambitious husbandman, with ordinary industry and intelligence, cannot fail to be realized.

Indian corn is a staple crop, and no better test of a good climate and soil is necessary.

I trust that the above may be useful to your correspondent "M." and other readers interested in the important work of Canadian fruit culture.

Toronto, Sept. 1867.

S. W. G.

## The Household.

### Domestic Machinery at the Exhibition.

#### SPINNING MACHINES.

THE number of these articles on the ground afforded proof that the interests of the farmer's family are being looked to in the house as well as his own in the field. Four or five of these handy articles were shown, each displaying considerable ingenuity, and all marked by many servicable qualities. In addition to the really clever device of Mr. Lazier, of Belleville, in which twelve threads are spun at once, the well-known machine of Mr. Dell, of Strathroy, Middlesex, was observed. Mr. B. Wheeler, of Lough-boro', had also a wooden wheel reel on exhibition, of no particular prominence as a novelty. W. Glendillon's article of the same class was, perhaps, better,