

HORTICULTURE

British Columbia Fruit

A. H. Hudson, *Duncan, B.C.*

As reported in a recent issue of Farm and Dairy, British Columbia did exceedingly well at the apple show in Spokane, securing with practically only two exhibitors \$3,000 worth of prizes out of \$35,000, and this in the best apple section of the United States, and in competition with the most advanced growers.

In Farm and Dairy's report, mention was made of the three prizes won by Mrs. Smith, of Spence's Bridge, for apples and packing. This fruit was put up and packed by W. Palmer, a son of R. M. Palmer, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for British Columbia, a most creditable achievement especially considering the fact that the fruit was packed in Vancouver and shipped about 500 miles, whereas a large proportion of the exhibits for packing prizes were packed in Spokane itself.

Bark Splitting

W. T. Macoun, *Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa*

Bark splitting is a form of winter injury to fruit trees which usually occurs on young trees. It is due to the expansion caused by frost when trees are in a very succulent condition. It occurs when trees have grown late in the fall and there is a sudden low drop in temperature. It will occur when trees have grown late and there is a heavy fall of snow before the ground freezes. The soft snow appears to soften the bark of the tree and when the temperature drops suddenly the moisture under or in the bark expands and loosens the bark from the trunk or kills the cambium.

In Nova Scotia, the Gravenstein and other apples are affected with what is known there as "Crown Rot," which apparently destroys the bark about the tree near the ground. From what we can learn of this injury, which occurs mostly in well-cultivated orchards and in moist ground, we believe that the cause is that the Gravenstein grows too late and is subjected to the conditions just referred to, of being too full of sap. Traces of disease have been found at these injured parts but we believe that the disease is secondary rather than the principal cause, though we have not had an opportunity to study the injury there.

Bark splitting can be prevented to a large extent by having the wood of the trees well ripened when winter sets in, and this can be brought about, usually, by stopping cultivation in good time. When young trees are injured by bark splitting, they may be saved if not too badly hurt by covering the injured parts with grafting wax.

New Brunswick Fruit Meeting

At a recent meeting of the New Brunswick Fruit Growers' Association the president, Mr. Isaac Stephenson, of Sheffield, in his opening address, outlined the work of the association and gave much valuable advice on fruit growing with special reference to the growing of apples and cherries, then direct from St. John to England.

The revised prize list was criticised but no amendments were made. A committee was appointed to confer with the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association with a view of establishing a uniform score card for judging fruit. Another committee was named to wait on the Government and ask for an annual grant for the association. The secretary was asked to correspond with barrel manufacturers and to impress upon them the neces-

sity of improving the quality of their stock.

The subject of small fruits was discussed by Mr. W. Teed Inch, Mr. J. C. Gilman and others. The discussion was led by Mr. W. T. Macoun and brought out many valuable points particularly in the matter of varieties of strawberries. Hardy varieties of fruits also were discussed by Mr. Macoun. An address on "Evolution" was given by Dr. Hamilton and one on "Insects" by Mr. Wm. McIntosh, of St. John. The principal prize winners in the fruit exhibit were: J. C. Gilman, Fredericton; Norman Hallett, Douglas; J. W. Clarke, Margerville; Isaac Stephenson, Sheffield, and S. B. Hatheway, Fredericton.

Co-operation.—At the convention of the Quebec Pomological Society, held a short time ago at the Macdonald College, Mr. Harold Jones, of Maitland, Ont., touched on co-operation. He said that this system of growing and handling fruits attracts buyers because they can get what they want. It widens the market. It brings higher prices because complete cars can be filled at one time with the stock that the buyers want. It economizes in the buying of material for spraying, marketing, and so forth. Most important is its influence in improving the pack. Growers that pack co-operatively can pack more uniformly.

The practice of spraying does not consist of simply throwing spray materials on the trees. It does not mean spraying six or seven times a season, but means spraying correctly at the right time.

Protect the strawberry patch with a covering of straw or straw manure. If the winter is mild, it may mean the difference between a good crop next year and a total failure.

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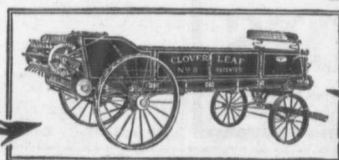
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