

CANADA'S FRUIT STILL TO THE FRONT

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CANADA is still keeping up the standard of her fruit display at St. Louis quite equal to that maintained by any other country showing. This I found recently on returning unexpectedly to the exposition.

The Canadian stock of apples in cold storage is still holding out and turning out well. I was pleased with the natural appearance of the apples still on the plates, some of which had been exposed for a week or more. Among those keeping their quality and appearance are the Spys, Russets, Kings, Canada Reds, and the Salome. The last named, in fact, has done particularly well all through the season and has attracted a good deal of notice. Some took it for a small sized but nicely colored Spy, and they were not unwarranted in doing so. It has kept both its color and its quality well, and if it had a little larger size it would rank among the best of our long keeping winter varieties.

Samples of the Yellow Transparent are somewhat on the small side, but quite up to those shown by other exhibitors. The Duchess is showing up fairly well, and a few samples also of the Red Astrachan and Sweet Bough, but not being as well developed as those shown by states much farther south they are somewhat outclassed. It is noteworthy, however, that all early apples are under size this year, even those that came in fully matured from the south.

In pears, those that have arrived and still continue coming from the Grimsby and St. Catharines districts, including the Lawson, Buerre Gifford and Marguerite, are credible, both as regards quality and appearance, compared with other exhibits in the pavilion. Clapp's Favorite is not sufficiently matured so far north as Ontario, Michigan and New York to make a good showing with districts much farther south.

In plums Canada is well to the front in comparison. The varieties now in display

include Abundance, Ogon, Shero and Red June. There are larger samples of all these varieties showing, but none better in quality. I might state that Abundance is attracting considerable notice from expert judges for its unusually high quality, and all the other varieties shown by Canada have attracted attention for quality.

In peaches Canada is showing three varieties, Early Canada, Early Riders, and Alexander. This display only goes to show here, as yet, that Canada can grow peaches and gives us an opportunity to promise what we can and will do later. Some of the state exhibits are now chiefly peaches, and many of them are exceedingly fine. In the Elberta variety Oklahoma surpasses anything that I have ever seen in that magnificent peach, and I question if Southern Michigan will be able to rival it.

Canada seems to be too far away to make a display equal to her capabilities in production either in blackberries or blueberries. Strange to say, the state taking the lead in both of these fruits is Wisconsin, and there is no reason why Canada should not have far outstripped that state in either one, but especially in blueberries. Of course I am not making any high claims for the blueberry as far as quality goes, but it seems to attract attention.

I cannot close this letter without a reference to the magnificent display of Groff's hybrid gladioli, now being made by Mr. Cowel, of Berlin, N. Y. Some of these new strains are so exceedingly beautiful that they are provoking very general admiration. The fact of Groff's name and Canada being associated with them is something to be proud of. One would think that the question, "Can any good thing come from Canada?" had been so fully answered by everything with the name of Canada attached to it down here that it would never more be asked.