

The Centennial—The Display of Fruit.

PHILADELPHIA, October 8.—The display of fruit at the great Exhibition is in Pomological Hall, back of Agricultural Hall. For some cause only a part of the States are represented. Pennsylvania has 200 varieties of apples, 42 of pears, and only a few grapes. A comparatively new apple, known as Cornell's Fancy, has great merit; is rather acid, mealy, of choice flavor, matures in August, and is of high color. Another is the Doctor; sub-acid, and matures in September. The grapes sent from the eastern part of the State are Concord, Clintons, and Telegraphs—a poor list. On the shale lands in Western Pennsylvania, the Delaware, Iona, and other choice sorts have done well.

Ohio has 120 varieties of apples, 20 of pears, 25 of grapes, in charge of the Secretary of the State Horticultural Society, and the display is highly creditable. The first extensive vineyards made in this country were in the vicinity of Cincinnati, but now this fruit has so generally failed there that no sorts, unless it be the Concord and Ives, are recommended. Probably the reason of their failure arose from having selected and planted almost exclusively the Catawba, certainly among the best of all grapes, but it is wholly unsuited to the rich limestone soil. Canada has 280 varieties of apples, 62 of pears, 14 of peaches, 27 of grapes, 8 of grapes under glass, 42 of plums, 4 of fruits in glass jars. On the whole, it is the best display of fruit. It will surprise many that a region so far north should raise so much fruit, but it has the advantage of having a moist climate; indeed, Lower Canada is surrounded by heavy bodies of water on three sides. Connecticut exhibits 220 varieties of apples, 13 of peaches, 27 of pears, 9 of crabs, and 22 of grapes, the last of which are of excellent quality. Massachusetts shows, through Marshal P. Wilder, 300 different kinds of pears, and through Hovey & Co., 175 of pears and 65 of apples. The fruit is all of good quality. Perhaps no other State raises better pears or winter apples. Kansas has 200 sorts of apples and fine Delaware grapes. The same State has a large show of apples besides in the Colorado-Kansas building, the specimens being uncommonly fine, but the quality of the keeping sorts is not high. The leading sort recommended is the Ben. Davis, a beautifully colored apple, but it is of such poor quality that it is utterly unworthy of cultivation. Iowa has 342 kinds of apples—a highly creditable display—and the quality is good. Nebraska, lying on the west of Iowa, also has a good show; and the capacity of these States for raising fruit may be considered immense. Oregon displays twelve varieties of apples, thirteen of plums and prunes, and thirteen of pears. The quality is excellent.

California sent two carloads of fruit, largely composed of pears and grapes. One carload perished on the way. The pears of this State are unexcelled, and they are raised without difficulty. The grapes are unrivalled, but it may be questioned whether the Delawares and Catawbas raised on the islands of Lake Erie do not possess higher qualities.

New Jersey's exhibit is made by a few individuals, presenting extraordinary fine specimens, the Delaware grapes being almost perfect.

The best show of fruit from New York is made by Ellwanger & Barry, who have 158 varieties of apples, 122 of pears, 57 of plums, and 62 of new seedling grapes, out of which something of value may be looked for. The Urbana Wine Company displays remarkable Delawares. The western part of New York, with its magnificent apple orchards, ought to have been better represented. This criticism applies also to the grape region extending from Niagara around the southern shore of Lake Erie to Detroit. The District of Columbia presents a fair display of grapes and pears. Wisconsin has 219 varieties of apples, 110 of crabs, some highly valuable; 13 of pears, 2 of plums, and 32 of grapes. Strange as it may seem, the Delaware is raised in some parts of this State at great profit. Pears are not recommended, and but few are raised.

Minnesota has 120 sorts of apples, and one plum and one pear. The climate is cold and the winters are long. By selecting the hardiest sorts, and by raising their own stocks, they are now raising apples satisfactorily. This is a triumph over formidable obstacles which should encourage those now in despair. Michigan is represented by some of her best fruit-growers with 150 varieties of apples, 15 of pears, 10 of plums, 40 of grapes—all the best of their kind. The winter apples can be kept the longest of any in the world. No State in the Union is equal to Michigan for raising a general line of fruits.—*Cor. of N. Y. Tribune.*

The Black Fungus on Apples.

This disease has been a growing one in this country, selecting for its subjects many of our most delicious varieties, and soon rendering the culture of an affected variety unprofitable. It fastened, many years since, on the old Newtown Pippin, one of the best long-keeping varieties we ever grew, and rendered its culture hazardous. It drove the Fall Pippin, one of our richest fall apples, out of the market, and it has affected, in a greater or lesser degree, the Swaar, Spitzenberg, Fameuse, and other apples of the highest quality.

It is a skin disease, but when it attacks an apple in its early growth, the black spots are apt to crack and the fungus follow the cracks into the core, and stop the growth of the fruit or of the side worst affected. When it appears after the fruit is nearly grown, it does not greatly damage it for immediate home use, but if barreled for shipping, as soon as the apples sweat, the fungus spots commence decaying, and spread over the fruit, soon rendering it worthless.

We have in our orchard quite a number of trees of the Fameuse, one of the most delicious of autumn apples, and one of the worst affected by the fungus. But few years pass when they are free enough from the disease to admit of barreling, but as they find a pretty ready home market, we have retained them. This is one of the years when they are sound enough to admit of barreling, and it would be very interesting to know what influences have contributed to keep off the fungus this year; but this, as well as the cause of the disease, is still wrapped in mystery, and must be classed with pear blight, mildew, and other diseases whose cause and cure are unknown.

We have written of the fungus as affecting the apple, but it also affects the pear. It has nearly driven the White Doyenne, once our most popular variety, out of cultivation, and has seriously threatened Flemish Beauty and even Seckel. Verily we have much yet to learn about the diseases, and the insect enemies of fruits.—*American Rural Home.*

Orchard Grass.

From Mr. Henderson's book on grass culture we call the following information with reference to orchard grass:—

It is native to America, and from its adaptability to the various soils, its early and late growth, luxuriant foliage and nutritive qualities, is well entitled to an equality with any grass, either native or foreign, which is being cultivated in this country. Orchard grass, when sown with clover, grows rapidly, starts in the spring early, and by this similarity of habit makes a suitable grass to mix with it. For pasturage it is greatly to be valued, for three reasons:—It stands drouth better than any other grass, will bear heavier stocking, and is the very earliest to appear in spring.

Orchard grass, by its great amount of fibrous roots, tends to improve instead of impoverish the soil; an orchard grass sod generally turns up a good dark color on being plowed. It is not at all fit for a lawn, as it sometimes grows in bunches or tussocks, especially when sown thin. The proper quantity, when sown alone, is two bushels to the acre; when sown with clover, one bushel is sufficient. Perhaps there are no other two grasses that can be sown together with so great advantage as red clover and orchard grass; by their union the crop is nearly double what it would be if each were sown separately; they grow and flower well together, come to maturity about the same time, and the clover is supported from falling by the uncommon strength of the orchard grass.

Fruit.

Many, if not all sorts of pears, are immensely improved by being subjected to a temperature of 100° for an hour or two previous to being eaten. To take the best kinds of fruit direct from the fruit-room, which may not be half a dozen degrees above the freezing point, is not doing justice to the fruit or, I must add, the owner. Let any one test fruits of any good sorts of apples and pears, some "stinging cold" and others artificially warmed, and note the superiority of the latter, which is to my mind conclusive.

SUPERPHOSPHATE.—D. L. of Caledonia, N. Y., writes the *Germantown Telegraph*: Many of our farmers are testing superphosphate upon barley and corn. I noticed a piece of fall wheat treated with it. One width of the drill with, and the next without it. The difference was plainly in favor of the phosphate. The amount sown was about two hundred pounds per acre.

Notes on the Garden and Farm.

Though horizontal farming is expensive of labor and backaches, yet we are quite certain that more machine labor may be economically employed in roof-raising. The expense of cultivation has been the great drawback to the extensive growing of the turnip in this country. Yankee ingenuity ought to remedy this difficulty. In the matter of topping and lifting from the soil for example, the English manufacturers advertise an implement which reports says is a real labor saving machine. It is simple and ought to be cheap. Some of our enterprising dealers might either import the implement or adopt the principles involved. It serves for other roots as well. By its use 8 acres can be topped and pulled per day, requiring the labor of one man and a horse. By comparing several states' reports, we find the average cost of production to be less than 20 cents per bushel. By improved methods of cultivation, and intelligent use of manures, this can doubtless be reduced one-half. It is the testimony of those who have tried it, that turnips are worth at least twenty-five cents per bushel for fodder. In the vicinity of cities and manufacturing villages we have known them to bring 75 cents per bushel, and sometimes as high as \$1.00, for table use.

CANADA OR THE WESTERN STATES?—Many people will be dissatisfied with their prospects in this life, no matter whether they be bright or dark, but the change to better their condition by a removal from Canada to the States generally turns out a fraud, a delusion and a snare. A short time ago, a number of Germans living at Breslau, a few miles west of Guelph, took a moving fit, and nothing would satisfy them until they packed their household chattels and removed to the Western States. They remained there two or three years, battling with the grasshoppers and drinking in those gentle Washoe zephyrs which roll over the prairies with force enough to blow a man's hair off, and finally came to the conclusion that Canada was the best country to live in after all. A number have returned to the vicinity of their former home, with a feeling of intense disgust for the land of the West.—*Guelph Mercury.*

A neighbor of mine recently informed me that he had lost a most valuable horse by a casualty by no means uncommon. A knowledge of a simple remedy would have prevented this loss. The horse trod upon a nail, which entered his foot. Lameness followed, the nail was extracted, but lockjaw supervened, resulting in death. An unfailing remedy in such cases is muriatic acid. If, when a nail is withdrawn from a horse's foot, the foot should be held up and some muriatic acid be poured into the wound, neither lameness nor lockjaw need be feared. Why the iron should have the effect, which it frequently has, and the rationale of the above remedy, I am unable to explain; but of the certainty of the counteraction of disease by this perfectly safe application, I am well convinced.—*Rural Home.*

EFFECT OF DRAINING AN ORCHARD.—The *Gardener's Chronicle* once related a case of an orchard of apples and pears, plums and cherries, which was planted in a heavy clay, trenched down to an iron pan on which it rested. For a few years the trees grew very well, that is to say, as long as their roots were near the surface and got the warmth of the summer's sun, but as they advanced downward the growth became small, and by degrees less and less, till at last the trees ceased to grow, and nothing flourished except grey lichens, with which the branches soon became covered.

All coarse weeds may be removed by dropping into the heart of each oil of vitrol. It should be applied with a stick notched round for an inch or two at the end, the better to hold the liquid, one dip of which will hold enough to kill three or more plants, one drop being sufficient if the acid be good. The vitriol hisses in burning up the weeds. The sticks should not be pointed; the bottle having a wire round it convenience of carrying. It is of course needful to trust the vitriol and its use to a careful person.

A horse, no matter how vicious and obstinate he may be when attempts are made to shoe him, can be rendered quiet and manageable by making him inhale, during the operation, a few drachms of the ethereal oil of parsley dropped on a handkerchief. A large number of trials of this substance have been made with the most troublesome and violent animals, and in every case with perfect success.