

yet, are easily found and dislodged: those that are a year old will be found gnawing away into the wood, taking a downward course towards the roots. A small, sharp gouge or piece of stiff wire makes a good tool to follow and dislodge the borer.

Farmer's Advocate.

THE HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION

AT THE MONTREAL FAIR.

Horticulture has now obtained a degree of importance in all civilised countries, and its study and recognition by the masses is a proof of the healthy development and refinement of a community.

Therefore, the grand display of the Tropical and other beauties of nature in the horticultural department of the Montreal Exhibition and the manner in which it was crowded day by day, were not without significance as to the state of the public mind and the advancement in manners and ideas that are ennobling and elevating.

The management of this department is to be congratulated upon the admirable way in which the details were carried out. Enough attention has not been paid hitherto as to the plan and decorations of the buildings in which flower and fruit exhibitions are held, and while choice and elegant specimens may have been present, the arrangement of them has been so bad as to mar this beauty by the composition of the "tout ensemble."

This was not the case in the present instance. The decoration of the building by beautiful and graceful festoons of green suspended in such a way as to hide the ugly cross beams and rafters of the roof, while happily no bright coloured flags were used, as on former occasions, detracting from the brilliancy of foliage, fruits and flowers. Then, instead of hard, mechanical tables the plants were displayed on beautiful, natural soft green turf, forming a ground work to harmonise with and relieve all colours far better than any thing art could supply.

The monotony of length was broken in the centre by a canopy, supported by four pillars covered with white cloth and garlands of smilax. These pillars were unfortunately square, had they been round the effect would have been improved. From pillar to pillar were hung well grown specimens of the pitcher plant of different varieties and other like plants of a pendulous habit. In the centre was a fountain surrounded by a bank of lovely green turf and dotted with cut-blossoms of the charming hardy *Hydrangea paniculata*, *gladioli*, &c., and some fine specimen plants amongst which a fine plant of *Ficus elastica variegata*, *Dracenas*, *Lilies*, and a remarkably well grown group of *Salaginellas* were the most noticeable.

But the glory of the Exhibition as the groups of exotics arranged along the centre of the ground space on the velvet turf above alluded to. The first prize for group covering 100 feet of space was awarded to Mr. John Doyle and as to cleanness of culture, luxuriance of growth and artistic skill in arrangement, this magnificent group of plants was as near perfection as could well be conceived. The rich colors of the foliage of *Dracenas*, *Caladiums*, *alocasias bestons* &c., and the brilliant flowers of the new French cannas, contrasting or harmonising admirably with the delicate green of the feathery palm, the fragile *adiantum* or the symmetrical *auracaria excelsa*. There were

also in the group several now and rare plants of great beauty. This group did infinite credit to the exhibition and placed Mr. Doyle in the first rank as a skilful and careful cultivator and man of taste.

The group which was placed second in this class, shown by Mr. J. Beatrix, was no less worthy of favourable comment, it was truly a magnificent display as regards selection, cultivation and arrangement and the judges must have had a hard task to decide between the two. The splendid New Zealand tree-fern which surmounted this group was a revelation of what skill and careful attention can accomplish. Every frond was perfect and without a blemish, it is doubtful whether in its nature such a specimen could be found in such perfection. In fact, as near as possible absolute perfection was the leading characteristic in all the plants of which the whole group was composed.

These were the two leading groups, but there were also eight others, the whole centre space being occupied by them and all were deserving of the highest praise, the exhibitors being Messrs Doyle, Beatrix, Bennett, Roy, Davidson, Walsh, Kirkwood and Smith. The groups are the leading features of the Exhibition and no means could be adopted so well to display the gardeners' skill and taste. They are all above criticism and prove that we have an unusually active painstaking and spirited class of gardeners in Montreal, (to this fact doubtless the influence of the gardeners' club has, contributed in no small degree), however, the public owe them a debt of gratitude for the grand opportunity they have had of admiring the beauties of the tropics and the glories of the antipodes.

But we must allude to a few of the leading features of this great and successful exhibition: far surpassing any previous one ever held here and equal if not superior to any ever held in Canada. On entering the hall we could notice a fine lot of Tree-Ferns from the gardner to "The Forest & Stream Club" also some superb *adiantum* or maiden's hair ferns. A fine *Alsophylla* from Mr. Doyle and a *cyclobotruma* from Mr. Beatrix and three Australian Tree ferns from Mr. Walsh.

We also noticed a good specimen of the wonderful *Nepenthes* or pitcher plants with very large pitchers.

Mr. Pano'eau, the city gardener, showed some *gloxinias*: excellent examples of careful culture. Mr. Wiltshire was great as usual in orchids perhaps the most interesting and difficult to cultivate class of plants in nature, of which Mr. W. is evidently a master in his profession—among these were the new and scarce *odonto-glossum grande* and *va du carulea*, with pale blue flowers, a colour very scarce in orchids.

Then there was a fine young healthy specimen of the *araucaria excelsa* and a very large and perfect *lycopodium scandens*, climbing fern from the Montreal Botanic garden. A singular tree-fern from T. A. Dawes, of Lachine, and an extraordinarily perfect specimen of *Cycas revoluta* from Mr. Walsh, gardener, to W. W. Ogilvie, Esq.

Tuberous-rooted *bogonias* never were exhibited in such fine condition. They came from James Morgan, Esq., of Hocholaga, and the Forest and Stream Club. The six from the latter never were excelled for purity and profusion of bloom.

We also remarked a fine plant of the rare *Lapageria alba* in bloom.

Mr. Wiltshire exhibited a *Maranta regalis*, a curious plant, the largest of its tribe; also a variety of well grown and interesting palms.

Table plants were numerous and beautiful, some of which were admir-

ably adapted for table decorations, while others were too large and coarse.

The special prize offered by Mr. W. Ewing brought out several excellent collections of cut flowers.

And to Mr. F. Roy, of the Mount-Royal Cemetery (the indefatigable manager of the Horticultural department of the fair), the special prize of \$50 for the winner of the greatest number of prizes was awarded.

In cut flowers *Gladioli*, hardy *Phloxes* and *Pansies* were never better shown; the latter, as they should be, were exhibited with stems and foliage, and far exceeded in natural beauty the old method of flat trays, and no leaves attached.

We cannot omit Mr. Trussell's *geraniums*, in pots, which were excellent, being vigorous, dwarf, healthy and full of perfect trusses of bloom.

The display of vegetables was fine, Messrs. Hall and Davidson taking the lead. The new tomato *ponderosa* was shown by Mr. C. A. Smith and although *ponderous*, as its name implies, was solid and well ripened.

In the amateur class, Mr. T. W. Burdon, as usual, carried the palm of victory. If there were more competition in this class, it would be well. Mr. A. W. Somerville also appeared among the prize winners. It was rather early for fruit and scarcely any could be said to be in perfection.

However, there was a good exhibit, upon the whole, of apples, some pears, grapes, etc., but in consequence of their unripe condition they did not do justice to the varieties they represented.

Two very fine *hydrangeas* were brought in late, but a well deserved special was awarded to each. One from Mr. W. W. Ogilvie and the other from Mr. T. Holden. For the prize winners I must refer your readers to the published prize list.

It was a pity the building was not sufficiently large to contain all the specimens and some very fine ones, amongst which were the new French flowering cannas for which a special prize had been offered and was keenly competed for between Messrs. Doyle, Roy and others: they made a beautiful display.

They were protected by a new neat wire fence, exhibited by Strathy, McRae & Co., of Montreal, which was elegant, light and ornamental, but very strong, durable and cheap.

Since the horticultural display has proved such an attractive part of the Association's exhibition, it is to be hoped that the directors will see the expediency of enlarging and altering the building so as to contain a yet larger display and have it constructed in such a way as to admit the light from the roof, a great desideratum in a structure for floral and horticulture displays.

GEORGE MOORE.

POSTSCRIPT. — Quebec cattle at Toronto seems to have had in all their own way. In Jerseys, Mr. Reburn, of Ste-Anne de Bellevue, in Guernseys, Mr. Greenshields, of Danville, and in Ayreshires, Mr. James Drummond, of Petite Côte, carried all before them.

Hops will be dear this fall. The English crop is light—250,000 cwt. short—though many very superior gardens have been pocketed, the hop-harvest having been nearly finished by August 31st. The crop in the States is large, but as the Bavarian and other German gardens have yielded badly, the Americans will not have much to spare. The Bavarians are largely imported in common years to impart flavour to the ales brewed in the States.

MR. GEORGE MOORE wishes us to say that "in quality and artistic display, the Montreal Horticultural Exhibition far exceeded the Toronto show."

Canadian hay in the London market still keeps up in price: 130s. to 140s. a ton.

Correspondence.

Ste-Thérèse, Sept. 18th 1898.

DEAR JENNER FUST,

Very glad to hear from you, and very sorry that you did not spend the summer at Ste-Rose, where I might have seen you often. I regret to say that I was not able to carry out your prescription, with respect to the peat land I wished to lay down in permanent pasture for cows. I have not the slightest doubt that, had I been able to do so, the result would have been much more satisfactory. Instead of feeding off rape with sheep, I have only been able to follow the usual method here. I sowed a good variety of grass seeds, but I am fully convinced that the feeding off with the sheep would have been so much better. As I go into town by an early train, now, I shall probably find time occasionally to look you up in the morning, or between one and two P.M. should that hour suit you. I am sorry that I cannot write you a conscientious article about the horses, as I did not examine them sufficiently carefully.

There is much room for improvement in the way of management. The live stock should all be judged on the first day of the Exhibition and then people would be able to criticise prize winners and judging alike.

I saw one valuable addition to the thoroughbred stallion ranks, a nice horse, with substance and quality. Saltpetre, by Glenelg, out of Salina, by Lexington.

He unfortunately stands at Cornwall, not in the Island of Montreal. Old Quito has been purchased by an Ontario man.

Glenelg was by Citadel, a son of Stockwell, so that you see Saltpetre is a nicely bred horse. We now have fewer horses than ever on the Island of Montreal, from which to breed useful half bred horses.

The following I copy from the Saltpetre service-card, which contains some salutary advice:

"Sir, I have been delighted to read the strictures of your reporter on the class of horses offered to the English officers sent here to buy army remounts. His allusions to the happy-go lucky use of hairy-legged Clyde stallions—on the lighter mares of the country are perfectly justified. The promiscuous use of such sires is as unfortunate in a commercial sense as the restricted use of them in their own class is profitable and beneficial. The country is swarming with slab-sided mongrels, the get of magnificent heavy draught horses from scrub mares. The farmers are all the time breeding down instead of up, and it is to be hoped this renewed failure of the English officers to find the class of horses they want will induce owners to patronise the thoroughbred blood horse who alone can get such animals as all the governments of Europe are prepared to take from us in unlimited numbers. By neglecting to use the thoroughbred stallion, the Americans are driven to Canada to purchase their saddle horses, and it is hard enough to find them here. We should take a lesson from this state of things across the border, which