

THE HAMILTON HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION

THE fruit, flower and vegetable exhibition held in the Thistle Rinks, Hamilton, on September 12-14, was a complete success in that it created an increased interest in general horticulture. Owing to its being a very busy season with the fruit growers and to the fact that the fruit and vegetable growers of the Niagara District did not seem to fully understand the objects of the show, the exhibits of fruits and vegetables were not as large as might otherwise have been the case, but were very creditable nevertheless.

On Wednesday the school children of the city were given a half holiday and over 1,700 of them attended the show. A most successful excursion to the show was run by the enterprising St. Catharines Horticultural Society. These features added greatly to the success of the exhibition.

The prime object of the promoters was to aid the fruit, vegetable and amateur flower growers of the Niagara district, and in this they were most successful. The opinion of Mr. Roderick Cameron, of the Queen Victoria Park, Niagara Falls, is that the display of flowers in several ways eclipsed anything before held in Ontario. "It is a very creditable show," said Mr. Cameron. "and of special value to the amateur."

The rink in which the flowers were shown grows. A special feature of the work done by the Hamilton Horticultural Society was shown in the great display of window boxes and hanging baskets. The window presented a most pleasing appearance. The cut flowers, especially the gladioli and asters, were excellent. Encouragement had been given to the growing of every variety. Prizes were offered principally to amateur boxes, over 20 in number, added much to the appearance of the building with their profusion of foliage and flowers.

The display of commercial plants, including not less than 100 square feet area, de-

serves special mention. There were four entries, and the judges remarked that for real value they surpassed anything ever on exhibition at Toronto. The special features of the one which got the red ticket were the elegant group of palms of different varieties of which the centre-piece was composed, the *Cocos Weddelliana* palm, which is one of the most graceful for table decoration, and the elegant ferns. A little more color on this group would have made it nearly perfect. In the table which won second prize, the *Araucaria excelsa*, was the best in the show, and the color effect was good, but the centre-piece *Ficus elastica* was rather tall and ragged. The centre-pieces were the weak points of the other two entries.

A fine sample of the work done by horticultural enthusiasts in Hamilton was seen in an excellent display of native ferns by Dr. Storms. The doctor had a collection of 33 varieties of ferns native to Canada, each carefully numbered and the names typewritten so that everyone could get the correct name. Some of the varieties, such as *Asplenium angustifolium*, *Aspidium Goldieanum*, *Polypodium sculari* and three specimens of the royal ferns are very rare. As a further encouragement to fern growing Dr. Storms purposes offering a special prize next year for a collection of ferns.

The pendulous fuchsia, the variegated leave begonia, the scarlet *Salvia*, the twining English ivy and many specimens, such as the Rubber plant, *Dracena*, *Oleander* and palm, plainly demonstrated the place of the amateur at the show.

It is claimed by Mr. Cameron that Canada is sadly lacking in evergreen shrubs and plants to decorate her landscape in winter and afford shelter and protection to our numerous birds, which are forced to go south when cold weather comes. To show what can be done to change this state of af-