

are heavy bearers. Some are red, some white, but mostly blue, and the best of them are very nearly as good in quality as Lombard, if not quite equal.

We continued our journey down the Volga, visiting the orchards at several of the towns until we came to Seratov, in lat. 51½, where we found an orchard of 12000 trees which had lately employed 300 pickers and 85 packers, and had sent what is equal to 1000 tons of apples, to the Moscow market. Here, we find an orchard of 500 pear trees, and yet there are times when the mercury becomes solid.

As we turn westward into central Russia, we find new varieties of the apple. The Annis, grown probably for hundreds of years on the Volga from Seratov to Kazan, is unknown at Voronezh, and the Antonoyka takes its place. The best varieties of the Russian fruits, fortunately, have been included in the collections sent from Moscow to the Agricultural College at Ames, Iowa.

I have said enough to show that the area of the apple, pear, cherry, and plum, can be increased northwards in our country very materially. Yes! at small expense many of these good varieties could be imported, propagated, and scattered broadcast.

Will not our Provincial Government do something to reach and scatter the blessings now known to be easily within its reach.

CHARLES GIBE.

Orel, Russia, 16th Sept., 1882.

Dear Jenner Fust,—There is very little for me to write to you about the horses shown at the Exhibition in Montreal, this year, for, with a few exceptions, it was as moderate a show as I have ever seen; but I will do my best, and tell you what I thought. To begin: in the thoroughbred stallion class there were only three shown, "one Dime," "Perron," and "Tubman;" the first was certainly not in the condition that a thoroughbred sire should be, and even on a race-course, I should have called him *very* "fine drawn;" the second, though good looking, was much in the same condition, being further disfigured by having an enlarged fetlock; and both appeared to be suffering from hard work on hard race-courses!!! of the third I need say nothing as he is well known, and has the advantage over the other two that several of his get were at the show. In my opinion I would only have awarded *one* prize in this class. There was a fine big two years old colt shown by Messrs Dawes and Co., of Lachine, which though, perhaps, a trifle leggy at present, will no doubt improve as he grows older. The thoroughbred mares were a better lot, notably that fine imported mare "Sweetbread," who, though getting on in years, does not show it, and is certainly worth buying as a brood mare still. "Graluca" is also a fine specimen, and besides being younger than the other, is a capital feeder and has been hunted; both these mares were put up for sale, but, strange to say, there was no bid for either.

In the Saddlehorse class, the honourable Mr Cochrane again carried off first honours, and very justly, with his beautiful cob mare, which was so much admired last year; the second prize was given to a fine, strong, dark chesnut mare, belonging to Mr Carsley. Though she is a little "green" at present, she ought to make a grand weight carrier if properly handled. There was only one competitor in the jumping class, a handsome bright bay, and had he only been better ridden he would have better deserved the prize he got; had it not been known what the horse had done when in other hands, he would hardly have "caught the judges' eye."—Mr Drummond again got "first honours" with his little gray, who seems to jump better than ever, especially when his

rider had been persuaded to take off his spurs and drop his whip!

In the competition for the citizens' prize, there were no entries for the heavy weight carriers, but in the light weight, the Montreal Hunt Club carried off 1st and 2nd prizes; the former with a nice, compact, strong chesnut mare, called "Allandale," which jumped beautifully, the latter with a fine dark bay, "Roderick." Both horses are a credit to the Hunt.

The carriage horses were not much to look at, with the exception of a pair of blacks, which however only got third prize. The latter were well turned out; their tails out, and looked a very serviceable pair; while all the others had long tails almost touching the ground, and had a very "peacocky and gingerbread" look about them.

We now come to the best class in the show—the heavy draught horses and Clydes. The Sheldon Company took 1st prize with a magnificent pair of grays, one of which was in the winning pair last year, the mate having unfortunately died from lockjaw, caused by running a nail into his foot while carting a heavy load from some yard. By the way, I was told that this company have several pairs suffering from the same thing; and this shows great carelessness, I cannot help thinking, on the part of merchants allowing pieces of wood with nails in them to lie about in their yards. After a great deal of trouble and expense, the manager of the Company succeeded in finding a mate, and they now have a splendid pair, one weighing 1700 lbs and the other 1800 lbs, a pair which would be hard to beat in any show-yard.

The Clydes stallions were a good lot, especially the winner of the 1st prize, which I think was imported last year from Scotland. He is a fine dark brown, standing on good short and strong legs. I was sorry not to see any Suffolk Punch Stallions, as in my opinion (1), they are the class of horse we want in this country to cross with our Canadian mares being a trifle more active than the Clydes. There were some fine specimens in the brood mare and foal class; the mares in several cases being in splendid condition, and the foals strong and healthy-looking.

As you will gather from these few remarks, I was not very favourably impressed with the show, and I cannot help thinking that if these exhibitions only took place once in every two or three years that they would be more successful, for then larger prizes could be given. At present, if a competitor has only one animal to send, and that from any distance, even though he should be lucky enough to get a prize, he is almost certain to be out of pocket; and this is not much of an encouragement! Very truly yours,

E. A. C. CAMPBELL, M. F. H. (2)

The Horticultural Exhibition.

A dull, cold, wet summer! Consequently, neither flavour nor colour in the fruit, no brilliancy in the flowers. How very unlike our usual statement as regards a Canadian horticultural exhibition. I positively felt sad for the committee of management: their task was uphill work; and, painfully executed as it was, must depend for its reward upon the recognition of the judicious few among the spectators.

A bunch of *Muscat* grapes, of the *Bowood* strain was the first thing that struck me. It was rather an agglomeration of bunches than a single bunch; the thinning had been most carefully performed, so that each berry while attaining its maximum size had not the air of solitariness exhibited where the thinning has been too lavishly executed. The *Black Hamburgs* wanted colour, and therefore flavour, for even

(1) And in mine, too. A. R. J. F.

(2) These mysterious initials, I may tell our non-sporting readers, stand for "Master of Foxhounds."