

Niagara District Horticultural Exhibition

THE best tender fruit show that ever has been held in Canada was the Niagara District Horticultural Exhibition, held in St. Catharines, Sept. 15-17. The quality all around was superior and the extent of the display was greater even than had been expected. The delegates to the convention of the American Pomological Society were much impressed with the exhibition. Some of them told a representative of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST that the exhibition in general could not be excelled anywhere. Col. C. B. Brackett, United States Pomologist, Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, D.C., said that the whole show was an excellent one. He stated that the peach display was better than anything that he has seen this year in the United States and equal to any that he ever saw. Mr. Leonard Barron, managing editor of *The Garden Magazine*, New York City, commented upon the uniformity in quality and said: "It is magnificent."

The commercial package exhibits were fine, except perhaps in the case of apples. The peach pack was almost faultless. Pears were fine, especially Bartletts. The plums were better than ever. Grapes were fully up to the standard. The plate exhibits in fruit were equally creditable.

Space will not allow mention of all of the prize winners. The Rittenhouse competition for the best display of fresh fruits grown in the province was won by S. D. Furminger; 2nd, W. H. Bunting; 3rd, The Burlington Horticultural Society. For best display of peaches, W. Armstrong, secured 1st prize and C. G. Gregory, 2nd. The awards for best display of grapes were; 1st F. G. Stewart; 2nd, A. D. Brodrick; 3rd, A. Haynes. In the wrapping and packing competitions, the prizes were fairly well

distributed between the Misses Boles, Vanderlip and Thompson.

Much interest was taken in the competition for Wilder Medals, given by the American Pomological Society. Space does not permit us to mention all of the awards. Silver medals were awarded to the following Canadian exhibits: Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, for a collection of hardy apples, including 20 named and tested varieties, 40 seedlings of Wealthy, originated on the farm, 14 seedlings of McMahon crossed with Scott's Winter; Experimental Farm, Indian Head, Sask., for a number of hybrids of *Pyrus baccata* and *P. prunifolia* with several varieties of hardy apples. The seedlings of Wealthy and the crosses of McMahon and Scott's winter, together with the crab hybrids, constituted one of the most interesting and significant exhibits before the society in recent years, illustrating as they did the systematic work under way to extend the northern frontier of fruit culture. Silver medals were awarded also to A. P. Stevenson, Nelson, Man., for a collection of 14 hardy varieties of apples, which illustrated the possibility of apple growing in the far north; and to Robt. Thompson, St. Catharines, for an attractive exhibit of bottled fruits.

Bronze Wilder medals were awarded to Albert Pay, St. Catharines, for an artistic exhibit of fruits, illustrating the product of a single farm and comprising peaches, plums, pears, grapes, water melons and muskmelons; to the Burlington District for a collection of fruit shown by the Burlington Horticultural Association; to the St. Catharines Cold Storage and Forwarding Co., for a very attractive and extensive display of package fruit, which constituted probably the greatest feature of the entire

exhibition; to R. B. Whyte, Ottawa, for a collection of 17 varieties of English gooseberries, that illustrated the possibilities of growing these varieties without spraying; to Wm. Armstrong, Queenston, for a very attractive and original display of peaches. Among those who secured honorable mention was A. Burrows, Ste. Anne de Bellvue, Que., for exceptionally fine specimens of Alexander, Oldenburg and Wealthy.

In the vegetable department there were some fine specimens in the various classes. The tomatoes were exceptionally fine. The largest and best exhibits in vegetables were made by L. Gray, S. D. Furminger, Wm. Coppin and W. C. McCalla. The stuff was well grown and a credit to the district.

While the floral features of the exhibition were most creditable, it cannot be said that they constituted as striking a display as did the fruit. While there were many exceptionally fine exhibits of cut flowers and plants, there were also many poor ones. The professional competitions, including general displays, design work, cut bloom and specimen plants were very good, the prizes being divided among R. L. Dunn, N. Whiting and L. C. Bradt. Mr. C. Rioridon, through his gardener, John Elliott, won first prize for best display of plants from a private greenhouse. Queen Victoria Park at Niagara Falls put up an extensive and attractive display of decorative plants, which was well staged and attracted much attention. The amateur classes in cut bloom brought out a good lot of exhibits. Special interest was taken in the school children's competition. The decorated reception tables were not up to the mark, although there were a large number of entries. One of two of them were quite novel and prettily arranged.

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