

FRUIT AT OUR LOCAL EXHIBITIONS.

BY J. H. WISMER, PORT ELGIN, ONT.

Any one interested in the fruit department of our Township Fall Shows cannot but notice the errors so common in naming the different varieties of apples, pears, etc. Especially prevalent is this fault among our fruit-growing farmers—some of whom are rather extensively engaged in this branch of their occupation—and I believe I am but giving the opinion of all who are in the habit of judging at our local exhibitions, when I say that not one farmer in twenty is able to name correctly all the fruit he grows. I have often heard bitter and loud complaints from exhibitors against judges, charging them with partiality and incompetence because their "extra fine" specimens were awarded no premium, while in the same class entries of inferior fruit took all the prizes, simply because the exhibitor in the latter case complied with the prize list in naming his fruit correctly, while the former did not.

At an exhibition last fall, where I was requested to act as judge, I could not, according to the prize list, award a single prize in "collections," although there were seven entries. This state of affairs is very annoying and unsatisfactory to judges as well as exhibitors, and has been a fruitful source of strife and contention, causing a rapid falling off of the number of fruit exhibits from year to year in many of our local shows.

To remedy this, all fruit growers, and exhibitors especially, should see that they know by name what they grow, and in cases of doubt should refer to their nearest authority in this line, or, do as I have done, send a sample peck or half bushel (express charges prepaid) to our obliging President, who is said to be the *best authority in the Province*. I submit this, believing that all who know him will confirm the statements herein contained.

Seedling Peach Trees.—Mr. J. B. Pierce maintains before the Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania that it pays best in cold sections to plant seedling peach trees, because they are hardier than budded kinds.

Our experience does not bear this out. We have over 2,000 budded and several hundred seedling peach trees in our orchard, and we get crops as often from such budded kinds as Early Purple, Hale's Early, Alexander and Louise, as from the seedlings; and when there does occur a full crop seedlings are unsalable. Other kinds are more tender, as, for instance, Early and Late Crawford, Old Mixon, Smock, &c. If we had any peach trees native to our climate it would be well to endeavour to improve them by extended experiment, and perhaps our Experiment Station may further acclimatize some of the hardier varieties; but to advise any fruit grower to plant an orchard of natural fruit, in these days of improved varieties, is absurd.

CONDENSED REPORTS OF FRUIT.

BRIGHTON, MOORE'S EARLY AND WORDEN GRAPES.—Mr. J. B. Burk, Brougham, writes:—My Brighton and Moore's Early fruited last year. The fruit of the former is delicious, much superior to Moore's Early, and about one week later. No grape pleases me so well as the Worden. It is a heavy cropper, and it ripens soon after Moore's Early, about the first or second week in September. The quality is superior to the Concord. True, its fruit drops if allowed to hang too long, but if picked as soon as it is ripe it will cling to the stem as well as the Concord.

THE DUCHESS OF OLDENBURGH.—Mr. S. Roy, Berlin, sends a photograph of one of his trees of this variety, borne down with an enormous crop of ripening fruit; but which he thinks has now borne to its last crop. He says:—