

Judging Fruit*

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IN judging fruit one of the first defects to be looked for are blemishes. No fruit should be exhibited in competition for prizes that has a worm hole, bruise, spot or any other blemish unless it is impossible to get a specimen without such, or unless the blemish is very small and the fruit perfect in every other respect.

The uniformity of the specimens is equally as important as the freedom from blemishes. Irregularity is never attractive in fruit, and the specimen which attracts the eye on the dining table, in the shop window, and in the barrel or box is the specimen which approaches nearest the typical shape of the variety in question. Furthermore, the irregularity of one specimen gives an uneven appearance to the whole, and particularly is this the case when there are only five apples together.

High color is as desirable as uniformity, and it is difficult to decide just how far from perfect uniformity, highly colored fruit may be and yet score as high as a perfectly uniform plate with only fairly colored fruit. It is sometimes puzzling to the exhibitor to know just why a plate of apples receives a prize; but all these points are carefully weighed by the judge.

The time when size was considered the first essential in exhibition fruit has passed away, at least with the best judges, and large size is only preferred when the specimens are uniform, highly colored and free from blemishes, and equal in every other respect to those a little smaller. Apples which are of good size for the variety, and perfect in every other respect, will stand the best chance for first prize, as it is difficult to get large specimens which are as highly col-



John M. Fisk

John Manson Fisk, President of the Quebec Pomological Society for 1905, was born at Abbotsford, P. Q., Dec. 13, 1836. As a boy he developed a taste for horticultural pursuits by sowing apple seeds and planting trees, and after coming into possession of his father's farm, established a nursery, where many varieties of apples, pears and plums were tested, the trees from which now form the nucleus of many a commercial orchard in his native province. He was one of the originators of the Abbotsford Fruit Growers' Association, formed in 1874, and which published the first fruit list for the province of Quebec in 1875, and ever since has been one of its leading members. The Pomological and Fruit Growing Society of the Province of Quebec was organized at Abbotsford in 1894, by representatives from different parts of the province, at which Mr. Fisk was elected its first president. Each year since he has taken an active part in the work of the society.

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There is also a certain undefinable thing called "finish" about an apple which is regarded by the judge. This may be explained, in part, by a clearness of skin and a thorough maturity of the fruit. No better evidence could be given of the stability of the soil and the care in growing the fruit than the finish which the fruit has.

When comparing different varieties, quality, of course, should and does receive due consideration; especially is this the case when judging collections of fruit. In judging collections, however, the value of the varieties shown from a commercial as well as a dessert standpoint receives attention.

*Extract from an address delivered at the last annual convention of the Prince Edward Island Fruit Growers' Association.