

ling, Jefferson and other foreign varieties which grow to perfection in the county. There were plums as large as eggs.

The exhibits of the plums of the country, the Damson and Reine Claude, were much admired and we ask ourselves why such fine and good plums are shipped green and hard to the Quebec markets. I heard that traders buy them and have them gathered ten or twelve days sooner so as to convey them in barrels without injury.

Producers would always get better prices by gathering the plums when they begin to ripen and by sending them to market in baskets holding from one to three gallons. Such good fruit should never be shipped in barrels. The Horticultural Society will no doubt continue to show the public that the barrel system is out of date and that the California packing boxes and baskets should be used instead. An enormous quantity of foreign fruits fill our markets. To compete with them to advantage and realize a profit the producer must have fine fruit, the best of fruit carefully packed in small boxes or attractive baskets. The consumer does not care for plums that have gone through three or four hands. He prefers paying 50 cents a gallon for plums carefully gathered and put in a small basket; the bloom that will be seen on the fruit on opening the baskets will prove that it has not been handled but has been gathered without touching anything but the stalk. The consumer who can afford to pay for first class fruit will be pleased at this.

The fourth class of exhibits was very interesting. There was an abundance of fine exhibits: currant jelly, jellies made from apples and other fruits, home-made wine and cider; choice maple syrup.

The pears were not what they should have been.

The Compton model farm exhibited some of its famous creamery butter. The butter was first class, put up in one pound prints, on small drawers in a well finished box. This box gave a good lesson in packing. Most honorable mention was awarded it by the Judges. The fruit evaporator of the Grimm manufactory, Montreal, attracted a great deal of public attention. Honorable mention was awarded Mr. Grimm for this evaporator which is destined to be of great use to those who desire to dry apples, plums, etc., in years when fruit is abundant. This evaporator exhibited was presented to the society by Hon. Louis Beaubien.

The vegetables were all fine and in great variety. We saw vegetables there as perfect as can be seen anywhere else.

Over three hundred pamphlets on fruit-growing were distributed to the members of the Society in 1898 by the Department of Agriculture. This will be a safe guide to many families in planting and growing fruit as well as in gathering and preparing the same.

Generous prizes were given by several members to exhibitors of remarkable products.

When the Society was founded in 1880, many persons who wished it success did not think it could maintain itself for any time; that it was impossible to comply with the law governing horticultural societies in the Province of Quebec.