

LETTERS FROM RUSSIA.—VII.

EXHIBITION OF FRUITS AT ST. PETERSBURG.



IN the month of October, 1890, the Imperial Society of Horticulture held an exhibit at St. Petersburg. The department of fruit growing and decorative horticulture was excellently arranged through the efforts of the skilful gardeners who have charge of the well stocked hot-houses in that city, but, on the other hand, the section of fresh fruits was a comparative failure, there being only some forty-two exhibitors.

The finest fruits were those shown by Polish growers, and particularly those from the Warsaw State Pomological Garden, which received very high commendation. All the Polish fruits were correctly named, well formed and large, whereby one would judge that fruit growing in Poland is in a good and prosperous condition. The fruits, however, were mostly tender varieties grown under glass, few native sorts being among the exhibits. Among these latter were some pears, and a winter apple under the name of Glogierowka (of pigeon class). It is a very beautiful apple of excellent flavor and the fruit growers of Warsaw consider it to be one of the best of their hardy and productive dessert sorts.

From Lithuanian and Western Russia there were very few exhibits, none worthy of special mention. Crimea showed very few fruits from her commercial gardens; her exhibits were mostly French varieties of pears, peaches, grapes and nuts, which are exported into the northern districts. Of apples there were some very good local varieties of the Synap, and two very beautiful and delicious Crimean apples, Gulpembe and Chelebi, scions of which I sent you, also a large filbert, known here as Bomba.

From Caucasus there was only one exhibitor, who showed some forty-six varieties of apples and twenty-four of pears; most of these were local kinds. Of pears, one variety attracted everybody's attention on account of its enormous size, the Tash-Armud, a local tartar name. It is an excellent, juicy, autumn pear, of about three pounds weight. Caucasus is little known in pomological circles, and it is interesting to know that many quite new sorts of excellent fruits grow there, some without any culture, and even in its forests. In course of time, this country, owing to its favorable climate, will become one of the principal centres for growing apples and grapes; even now it exports a large quantity of wine into France.

The exhibitors of Russian fruits from the northern governments were very few, and from some there were no representatives. In all the exhibits were met such wide spread and popular varieties as the Antonovka, Borovinka (Duchess), Titovka, Aport (Alexander), Anis, etc. These typical kinds are known and distributed throughout the whole of Russia, and have reliable names, but other