

Fruit at the Canadian National

This was expansion year at the Canadian National, and the fruit exhibit was in harmony therewith. As a whole, the display was the largest ever staged at this exhibition. The size and color was the best ever seen for the time of year. In the matter of accommodation there is still room for improvement. The displays by seed firms were interesting and reliable, but they should not be so placed as to break up the fruit exhibits, as was the case this year. Then, too, the exhibits of railway and steamship companies should be confined to their proper places and the horticultural building utilized for horticultural exhibits only.

A change that would add to the attractiveness of the showing would be the giving of more prizes for baskets and otherwise displayed fruits. Then, too, it might be wise to drop some of the late varieties and enlarge the prize list for earlier ones. The late varieties had little or no color. A feature that would add greatly to the educational value of the exhibits and also to the general interest would be to have the name of the variety and exhibitor more plainly shown after the fruit had been judged.

Pears were of good color and quality. The plate exhibits were remarkably smooth and in most cases uniform. The showing was well above the average of past years. In baskets for display there was keen competition. One of the judges remarked that he saw some Bartlett's that were as good as any he ever saw come from California. A few exhibitors made a mistake in selecting a poor color of covering for the baskets.

Plums were the best ever shown. The number of entries was large and the competition close. Peaches were of good size and extra fine color. It was evident that they caught the eye of the visitor.

Grapes were well up to the high standard set in other years.

APPLES

The display of apples was easily the best ever shown. The color was fifteen to twenty per cent. ahead of last year and the quantity almost double. The boxed fruit might easily be increased if the prize list was extended, only the standard varieties now being represented. In the arrangement of the competitive box exhibits there was room for improvement. Each exhibitor had to place his own entries, so no general scheme of arrangement was carried out. It would be well to stipulate that fruit in boxes for export should be wrapped. There was some splendid fruit shown in the box entries, one box of Duchess being particularly noticeable.

The plate and cone exhibits were exceptionally well colored. As Prof. Crow, of the O.A.C., who judged the entries, remarked: "The color is extra fine and the fruit is slightly cleaner than last year. Exhibitors, however, should have learned by this time that wormy fruit is not wanted. I didn't give any prizes to wormy fruit. A number, too, are making a mistake in selecting too large specimens of the dessert varieties. Typical apples of the variety should be chosen. In the cooking sorts, size with quality is desirable. A number of specimens were minus the stems." A pleasing feature is that more exhibitors are showing and the prize money is being more widely distributed.

COMMERCIAL PACKAGES

Mr. Harry Dawson, one of the judges on Commercial Packages, stated that never before had the fruit shown at the Exhibition been as well packed or as uniform in

quality as this year. Not only apples, but plums, grapes and pears were all much better packed than in former years.

"We will soon," said Mr. Dawson, "know how to pack as well as they do in the west, and be able to hold our own even with California. An encouraging feature of the commercial packages," continued Mr. Dawson, "is the fact that there is an unusually large number of entries in all classes. Among the boxes of apples is one of Duchess, which is the best packed box of apples I have ever seen, either at this show or at the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition. It excels in uniformity of color, uniform size of the apples and in the firmness of the pack. As regards the general exhibits, they also show more uniformity than usual, there not being so many off-packs, as most of the exhibitors have followed the 2-3 pack, the next most popular pack being the 3-4."

ONTARIO'S EXHIBIT

In the Government Building, the Fruit Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture had a fine display. All the fruit was exceedingly well colored, and as soon as the more perishable varieties showed signs of decay they were replaced by a fresh lot so that the showing was always fresh and attractive. An interesting feature was a box of standard dimensions, all made of glass, containing some beautiful Chenango strawberry apples. The glass enabled the spectators to view the style of pack to the bottom of the box. The peaches and plums were exceptionally fine.

Welland and Lambton counties had fine exhibits of fruits. The peaches were possibly the best at the fair. A well-loaded branch of a Welland county plum tree gave an idea of the productiveness of that

district. Lambton county showed some extra fine boxed apples. The exhibit was tastefully arranged, a mirror at the back giving it the appearance of double its actual size. The British Columbia exhibit gave a splendid idea of the fruit growing possibilities of that province. The fruit was mostly shown as plate specimens. The boxes used were the North-western standard size.

SOME OF THE PRIZE WINNERS

The gold medal for the best display of fruit went to W. J. Furniger, St. Catharines, who also got first on collections of 10 varieties pears, 15 varieties plums, 5 varieties plums (green or yellow), and 5 varieties plums (red or blue). First on fancy package, display basket, and flat-covered basket of plums, display basket of grapes and flat-covered basket of peaches were also won by Mr. Furniger.

J. H. Corning, Waterdown, was prominent in the apple classes, winning first on export Duchess, Blenheim, Wealthy, and Spy, and on plate exhibits of Duchess, Fameuse, Gravenstein, Hubbardson, Wealthy, and Spitzenburg; also first on 20, 10, and 5 varieties cooking apples and for pyramids of Blenheim, Duchess, King, R. I. Greening, St. Lawrence, and Wealthy.

Other prominent exhibitors in the apple class were W. E. Weese, Carrying Place; J. Guthrie, Dixie; R. Williamson, Carrying Place; and T. Bunting, St. Catharines.

A. E. Freil, Niagara-on-the-Lake, was first in all peach collections. In grapes, similar honors were won by L. Haynes, St. Catharines. Other prize winners were: W. D. Woodruff, St. Catharines; A. W. Austin, Port Dalhousie; F. G. Stewart, Homer; and R. Cameron. The prize money in the plum classes was well divided.

Fighting San Jose Scale in Ontario

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During the past spring the Fruit Branch of the Department of Agriculture engaged the writer to undertake the work of investigating the prevalence of the San Jose Scale in the orchards of Ontario. As a result of the work, which began April 21, we have found the San Jose Scale to be rather widespread, especially in the south-western part of the province. The pest has been found in the following counties: Oxford, Middlesex, Lambton, Essex, Kent, Elgin, Norfolk, Welland, Lincoln, Wentworth, Halton, and Peel.

The San Jose Scale is one of the worst pests that the fruit grower has to fight, but fortunately it can be controlled. From observation of a number of orchards, previously infested, we have found that this very destructive pest can be completely overcome by spraying the affected trees with the lime-sulphur mixture. The spray should be applied on the dormant wood, before the buds break open in the spring or after the leaves drop off in the autumn. If the trees are badly affected the rough bark should be scraped off and the trees rather severely pruned. It is absolutely necessary to be very thorough in the spraying of the trees. Every branch, and even the smallest twigs should be covered with the spray mixture.

This is rendered necessary by the marvellous powers of reproduction which the San Jose Scale possesses. One female in the course of a season is capable of bringing forth offspring which will multiply to one million. From this fact we can see the necessity of being thorough in the

spraying, as even the smallest twig left untouched will reinfest the whole tree.

CONCERTED ACTION NECESSARY

To secure the best results in an infested area, concerted action is necessary on the part of the fruit growers. Unless this is secured, the efforts of those who do spray are to a certain extent rendered ineffective. From interviews with a large number of fruit growers, we have found that compulsory spraying would be welcomed by many, especially in sections where the San Jose Scale is prevalent. Competent inspectors should be appointed to see that the negligent ones do their duty.

Fruit growers should keep a sharp lookout for this pest, as it is much easier to control in the initial stage than when it has become established. The San Jose Scale is spread in the first place chiefly on nursery stock; therefore growers should deal only with reliable nurserymen. Birds and insects also carry it from tree to tree and from orchard to orchard.

The Department of Agriculture will furnish upon request a spraying calendar, giving full and complete directions for spraying for the San Jose Scale and all other fruit pests.

Peaches, plums and other soft fruits are not susceptible to being preserved for any length of time in cold storage. The best that can be done is to keep them in a firm condition for transportation and marketing at reasonable distances.—J. A. Ruddick, Dairy Cold Storage Commissioner.