

# A Standstill in Horticulture at the National Exhibition

AT the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, products of the field and garden do not receive the attention that they deserve. The facilities for making proper displays, and the meagreness of the prize-list do not encourage large exhibits. The buildings are old, the prize-list is not properly arranged, and not enough money is offered as a recompense for the expense incurred in exhibiting. The perishable character of fruit warrants larger prizes. Very seldom is a basket or plate of fruit of any value after the exhibition. A new building is promised for next year. A new prize-list and more money, also, should be forthcoming.

## FRUIT

While the fruit exhibit was not as large as it might have been, the quality of the fruit was better than usual. In varieties, a stronger tendency to grow and uphold the commercial types was evident. The strongest competition was in the commercial classes. The commercial packages showed a great improvement in tiering, in make of box, and in the material used. Practically no boxes were made of poor material. The style of packing, in most instances, was good. In one class, there was an excellent object lesson in packing. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize boxes were side by side. The 3rd prize box was 50 % better than the 1st prize in regard to fruit, and 100 % better than the 2nd prize box, but it was slack. It is essential that the box be full and packed tight. Slack packing will cause the apples to roll, become bruised, and arrive at their destination in poor shape. Some other boxes were not filled to the top and did not receive the award that quality of the fruit merited. A box of Greenings, good fruit, was packed with the bottom end of the fruit up, and the appearance was spoiled. In commercial packages of pears, some baskets were filled too full, heaped up, and not properly covered and protected. While such may have a place in a nearby, special market, they are not fit for shipment, and, of course, could not compete. Some of the finest Bartletts on exhibition were packed in this manner and were disqualified.

The plate exhibits were fair. Had it not been for the efforts of the St. Catharines and Grantham societies, and the Ont. Fruit Exp. Stations, the size of the display of plates would not have amounted to much. Owing to unfavorable weather during the past season, the number of plates of apples and plums was not great. Pears made a better showing, but, on many plates, there was a lack of uniformity in grading to size. In some instances of 5 varieties on a plate, all pears were of good quality; but 1 or 2 were large and the rest small. The exhibit showed an unevenness that spoiled the effect. Fruit exhibited on plates should be as uniform in size as that demanded in packages for export. Bartletts, Clapps and Duchess were the most numerous. An interesting feature in connection with some of the Bartletts was the fact that the influence of Keiffer pollen was noticeable on some specimens of that variety. Trees from which those particular Bartletts came probably were in close proximity to trees of Keiffer.

The Niagara district sent some good contributions of peaches. Considering the date of the exhibition, the coloring and size were very good. The leading commercial varieties were shown and some others that should have been kept at home. A regrettable feature was the presence of San Jose scale on some of the specimens. Scale was to be seen on peaches that were awarded first prize. Such fruit should have been disqualified altogether, no matter how it compared with competitive plates. The fact that scale was sent to the exhibition is an indication of the seriousness of this trouble in the peach orchards of this province. If growers cannot select a few clean peaches for exhibition out of the many bushels

that their orchards produce, the situation is serious.

The Ont. Fruit Exp. Stations made an exhibit of varieties of fruits that are recommended for general planting throughout the province. It was in charge of Mr. P. W. Hodgetts, Sec. F.G.A., Toronto, and was arranged for educational purposes. All kinds of fresh fruits were shown; and cherries, raspberries, strawberries and others were in bottles preserved in antiseptic solutions. A new peach, "Lewis," early, creamy flesh and of fair quality, was shown. A collection of small tools and other materials for use in fruit orchards was also there—pruning knives, saws, spraying nozzles and protectors, strainers, insecticides and so on. Fruit packages, packed and unpacked, helped to make the exhibit an important one.

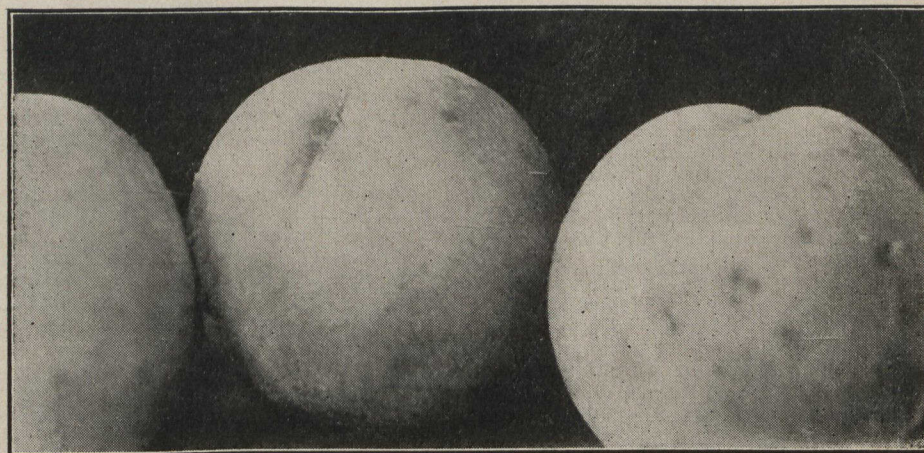
## VEGETABLES

In the vegetable dept. some excellent specimens of garden crops were to be seen. The celery was very good, particularly White Plume and Paris Golden Yellow; but some exhibits were not entered in their right classes—White Plume was shown for Dwarf White, and so on. Beets, carrots and parsnips were very good, the latter scarcely up to average in size owing to

kinds and varieties, and, in some cases, several groups of the same variety were found at different places on the place of display. This makes it difficult for judging. A collection should be limited to say 40 classes or varieties, and each variety should contain no more than 5 specimens. Each class or variety should be correctly named, the names printed on cards attached, and by itself, not scattered promiscuously over the table. THE HORTICULTURIST knows of a case this year where a grower went to the fair grounds with his exhibit correctly named and grouped, as already suggested; and, on seeing the scattered arrangements of the collections then placed, he refused to exhibit. A rearrangement of the conditions of entry for next year should be effected so as to make a reoccurrence of such an incidence improbable.

## THE FLORAL DEPARTMENT

The cut flower exhibit this year was almost a failure. The entries were the smallest and the exhibits the most inferior of any in past years. In the plant section some very good specimens were shown. A complete change is required in the floral department. Such is necessary to keep pace with the rapid advances made in other departments of the exhibition. The whole prize-



Prize Peaches at Canadian National were Spotted with San Jose Scale

dry season; garden turnips were poor, some of them worm eaten. Potatoes, extra good. Winter radish, fair. The date of exhibition was too early to show good cauliflower; cabbage and kale were up to the standard. Citrons were excellent, but some wrongly placed. Tomatoes, fine in quality, large sized, but wrongly named in some instances. The display of onions was the best for years; Brown Bros., of Humber Bay, captured 8 firsts out of 9 entries. The collection of peppers was fair, but would have been more satisfactory had the names been printed on cards and attached to the specimens; each variety in a collection should be limited in number,—as it was, the same variety could be found on different plates distributed over the table. In the class for individual entries of peppers, we think that, in one instance, the award was wrongly placed; the best exhibit was passed by because not quite ripe, but was outstandingly the best in other particulars. Sweet corn, squash, salsify, egg plants and cucumbers, also were good; the latter, however, was wrongly named in one or two cases.

In the class for collections of vegetables, two nice displays were to be seen; many superior individual specimens were shown in both collections. Mr. W. Harris, of Humber Bay, was awarded first prize. There is one thing about these collections to which we desire to direct attention: they were not limited to number of

list for flowers and plants needs revising, and some novelties should be introduced to make the floral hall more attractive.

Societies that appoint representatives to the National Ex. Assn. should be careful to select only those men who are in every way competent to fill that important position. How many members in the floral section this year can be accused of having originality? Only one or two. Some new men are wanted.

The erection of a new building for horticultural purposes will eliminate many of the evils that now exist. New features can be introduced that heretofore have not been practicable. Some classes in the prize-list remain to-day in almost the same condition as they were when introduced 20 years ago. Geraniums, fuchsias, summer flowering begonias, and similar classes should be omitted. Many others should be revised.

It would be well, also, to make a change in the foliage group. In their place banks of tuberous begonias, or auratum or rubrum lilies, with ferns, might be introduced. The public is tired of the old-time formal banks. They always know that such are at the exhibition; for, it is the only place where the average citizen can see such an arrangement of plants. Money now given for classes of this nature could be well spent in prizes for the most original floral decoration. Give the exhibitor space to put up a decorated dinner table, a wedding breakfast, a parlor