


THE FRUIT AWARDS AT PARIS.

IR,—I feel that it is scarcely fair to hold back the list of awards made by the jury on fruits at the Paris Exposition last year. In handing this list to you, I do so with this explanation and caution, that while all these awards were actually made upon the dates given by the jury of group 8, of which I had the honor to be a member, the whole had to be revised or confirmed by the superior jury, whose movements and action seems to be not only slow, but uncertain. Before leaving I could not obtain this confirmation, though I made many attempts to do so, nor could I obtain any good reason why it should not be granted.

I now give the list for publication in fairness, not only to exhibitors, but to myself. The supreme jury may eventually confirm these, as they should in fairness, or they may cut out as many as they desire and give no particular reason for so doing. In any event I am informed that it will be some months ere we can look for a final decision.

Besides these awards my predecessor, Mr. Hamilton, obtained all those made from the opening of the exhibition up to the course held before Sept. 13th.

But if juries were unsatisfactory and slow there, they could not help knowing and feeling that Canada was able to hold her own against the world, especially in apples of finest form, color and flavor.

I frequently thought of discussions we used to indulge in at our meetings in years gone by, where the general sentiment went to show that in this province at all events we are growing too many apples, and that after satisfying the home demand we had no market but Britain. The fact is we have all Europe, and in order to satisfy that market our orchard capacity must be greatly

enlarged. But we must grow the quality required and to do this must get rid of enemies in insects and diseases. The fruit grower must no longer neglect his orchard if he intends to make profit. There is no use in shipping poor or even medium fruit to any market. I could buy Canadian apples at retail stores in the cities of Britain at as low a price as I would have to pay in any town in Ontario. I found cheese could be bought for as low a price and in some cases for less than at home and meat also. But mark you, all these Canadian products could only be had at low prices when the quality was inferior, these apples were spotted and wormy, irregular in form and color, and like the cheap cheese, off flavor. But fine apples, belonging to No. 1 brand, were high in price; good Canadian cheese was out of our reach in price, and prime beef, was all that the shipper could desire for profit. The poor article is not wanted in Europe, and has to be sacrificed to get rid of it.

While in Paris my time was mostly occupied in testing markets. I found abundant opportunity to enlarge our fruit market, but in order to fill my orders promptly I was compelled to purchase in Britain and repack for other markets, fearing that the Canadian shipper would not deliver such a brand as would inspire confidence in our product. I adopted mostly the bushel box, although I did sell some in barrels. To give such particulars as I could in detail of sales would occupy too much of your space. Suffice it is to say that, although Paris is not a good centre to work from, I was able to make connections sufficient to warrant me in stating most positively that our apples properly grown, selected and packed, will find a market in any country in Europe, owing to their superior quality generally over all