

THREE JUDGES, OR ONE.



IN your December number I notice this question, by Thos. Holloway : "Is the one judge system at fairs an advantage over three?" This is a question that has been much discussed, but so far no definite conclusion has been come to. I feel that the advice you append to his question is the sound one. And in support of this I will give an instance of it that came under my notice this fall. Three judges were appointed; two of them were local men, the other considered as an expert from a distance. After the prizes were awarded this expert returned to the building and openly declared he was not responsible for such judgment, pointing out the errors that had been made, and declaring he was overpowered by the two local men. So far astray had they gone that it was a noticeable feature amongst those that were acquainted with horticulture. Some went so far as to say ignorance could not do this, and imputed it to sinister motives as being the only possible cause. Now, had this one judge been left alone, his judgment would have been acknowledged as right, even amongst the competitors themselves. I have considerable experience with the working of horticultural societies, and know how hard a matter it is to please all parties where there is close competition and many parts in it. But when they are so far apart as this I have instanced, it tends only to disorganize and produce many inharmonious results which should not exist in such societies. So I say with you, appoint qualified judges for the different branches that now exist amongst horticulturists acquainted with the progress of the present age. The cost should be of little consideration, in consideration of the baneful effects of such bad judgment. Now-a-days a man may be a good judge on plants and yet have little or no conception of the florist's branch. Such are frequently associated together with professionals for one set of judges. The art is now so distinct that only a florist is capable of dealing with bouquets, roses, carnations, chrysanthemums, table, mantle, or other decorations especially belonging to their branch. Fruit has made so many changes in the past few years that it must be difficult to find men that have kept themselves up to the times. Vegetables may be less difficult, as the changes are more generally known. I perfectly agree with you; get proper judges at any cost if you wish to give confidence to exhibitors and the public.

Supt. Grounds, Ottawa.

N. ROBERTSON.

WHEATLAND PEACH.—Mr. E. Tyhurst, of Leamington, writes as follows concerning this peach:—"I have some trees of the Wheatland Peach set out for three years, but, so far, they have yielded very few specimens. They are medium in size, and of fair quality. I think it would be a fairly good peach for market; indeed I have no doubt that it will sell well, but I fear the tree will only be a medium bearer. It looks healthy, and possibly age may improve its productive qualities."