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THE DOYENNE BOUSSOCK PEAR.



IN placing before our readers the colored plate of the Doyenne Boussock pear, we do not make any pretention of introducing a variety that is at all new, but an old acquaintance, which, after enduring many years of faithful trial, has gradually come to the front as one that is profitable to grow in the commercial orchard. It is not a native of America, but a foreigner, having been introduced at an early date from Belgium. The tree is a vigorous, upright grower, with a spreading head. Mr. P. C. Dempsey, in speaking of this pear at the summer meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association at Picton, in 1888, stated that he had grown it for twenty years, and esteemed it very highly indeed. His trees had reached a height of some twenty feet, and were abundant bearers, often yielding as much as five or six bushels to the tree. So far his trees have also been quite free from blight, which is the terror of pear growers generally. Flemish Beauty's standing near had long ago succumbed to this disease, while his Boussocks are healthy and vigorous.

This pear can hardly be classed among the best dessert varieties, being estimated by most people as inferior to the Bartlett in this respect. It is, however, free from the musky flavor of the Bartlett, and possesses just enough acidity to make it one of the very best of pears for canning purposes. Mr. Dempsey thinks that it would be impossible to plant too many Boussocks in the vicinity of a canning factory, for no pear is more desirable for sealing down. As a general