

# The Canadian Horticulturist

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## The Better Judging of Fruits

Charles Webster, Kelowna, British Columbia

THE first national apple show held at Spokane, Washington, last December, while doubtless the largest display of apples ever brought together, was also a skillfully managed and thoroughly successful event. Eight carloads of 630 boxes each, entered in competition in Class I., calling for "best carload of standard commercial apples," is but one instance of the magnificent scale upon which the show was run. There were other features, typically western in being about the best possible and showing independence in thought and action. Several fruit farms and a customer at \$25 a box for the first prize boxes, in a certain section, were some of the novelties in prizes.

By-products of the apple—cider, apple butter, apple vinegar, apple jelly, etc., home-made and factory-made—won numerous awards. In the apple kitchen the king of fruits, daintily served in about every conceivable way by a bevy of college girls, was an innovation that proved very popular and will surely result in an increased use of this wholesome fruit by thousands who attended the show.

### THE JUDGING SYSTEM

The splendid system of scoring by points must have been gratifying to the judges and was surely utter fairness to the exhibitors. This feature of the great show seems to have been but little commented upon by the horticultural press. In view of the notes about better judging of fruit in recent issues of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST, a review of the methods of judging there may interest some of its readers, and may suggest some points worthy of adoption at the fruit shows of our Dominion.

A grand system was used in judging the plate exhibits. The judges were asked to score each variety on its merits as an apple as well as award prizes. A score from one to ten was used. Varieties that scored lower than three, were awarded no prizes. Some sorts were not scored at all. The field was open to any variety, new or old; the foregoing simple method will, however, gradually discourage the exhibition of comparatively worthless kinds at future shows.

Every entry winning a fifth prize or over was awarded a diploma or diplomas and cash prize according to the scoring. In the case of a variety scored ten by the judges, the winner of first prize received

a diploma and \$5; second, diploma and \$2; third, diploma and \$1; fourth, medal and diploma; fifth, diploma. Varieties scoring only three and four points received prizes as follows: First, \$1 and diploma; second, fifty cents and diploma; third, diploma. Varieties scored intermediate to these instances were awarded prizes in proportion.

In the box and carload classes, the system was ideal, the judges having to show on score card just where the points had been earned as well as indicating (as in the plate fruit section) *how much* better they deemed one entry than another. An instance of score card will illustrate clearly:

General display, No. 2—Class 2—For best individual, county, district, state or

### For Progressive People

I sincerely hope that THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST will soon have a vast circulation throughout Canada. It fills a long-felt want, and should become very popular, especially among progressive people in the rural communities.—Dr. J. E. Klotz, Lanark Co., Ont.

provincial exhibit of apples. Each exhibit to consist of two barrels, two boxes, two plates, two baskets and two jars of apples. No package to contain more than one variety:

### SCORE CARD—SPECIAL DISPLAY.

Entry No. ....	47	23	57
Texture and flavor....	15	14	13
Size .....	10	10	10
Uniformity .....	10	9	8
Color .....	10	10	10
Condition and freedom from blemish .....	20	18	18
Arrangement .....	10	8	5
Number of varieties ..	25	25	25
Total .....	100	94	89½

Figures in first column represent highest possible score. There were nine entries. Kelowna was entry No. 47 and she is justly proud of her success, as first prize meant \$500 cash and \$25 each from a Spokane merchant for the two first prize boxes. Rather a record price for a bushel of apples. Kelowna was also fortunate enough to win at the same time the greatly coveted silver loving-cup presented by the Seattle Chamber of Com-

merce to the exhibit in this class scoring highest points for texture and flavor. It is an open question whether eastern fruit excels in texture and flavor, but it is pretty certain now that British Columbia grows the finest flavored apples in the west.

For Foreign Countries.—No. 6—Class 5.—For best two barrels or six boxes from foreign countries:

### SCORE CARD—FOREIGN BBLs. AND BOXES.

Entry No. ....	211	47	46
Variety .....	20	15	18
Commercial value ....	30	25	28
Uniformity .....	20	16	19
Attractiveness .....	20	16	18
Total .....	90	72	83

### PACK SCORE (BOXES.)

Bulge or swell .....	20	16	18	17
Alignment .....	20	15	17	16
Height of ends .....	20	16	17	17
Firmness .....	20	15	18	17
Attractiveness .....	20	18	19	18
Total .....	100	80	89	85

All prizes in this section, first, second and third, were won by British Columbia. Kelowna was entry 47. Second and third were won by Mrs. Smith, Spence's Bridge, (46), and Mr. Cockle, Kaslo, (211), respectively.

No. 12.—Class 7.—For best packed two barrels.—No barrel packing is done in Kelowna, the standard Canadian apple box being used exclusively, therefore Mr. De Hart who packed this exhibit and who had had no practice for years, deserves great credit for winning first prize. As I have been unable to get details of the score, only the possible points are shown:

### SCORE CARD—TWO BARREL PACK.

Entry No. ....	.....	.....
Fruit (a) Quality .....	10	.....
(b) Appearance .....	50	.....
Packing (a) Staves .....	3	.....
(b) Hoops .....	5	.....
(c) Heads .....	4	.....
(d) Nailing .....	3	.....
Packing (a) Facing .....	10	.....
(b) Tailing .....	5	.....
(c) Pressing .....	5	.....
(d) Racking .....	5	.....
Total .....	.....	100

In the fruit score it would almost seem as if fifty points for appearance was a handicap for eastern barrel fruit which