

ELBERTA—The best peach of its season for all markets, and the only variety especially suited for export by reason of its shipping qualities.

ORIGIN—Georgia; a cross between Chinese Cling and Crawford's Early.

TREE—Vigorous, hardy, and moderately productive, carrying as many samples as a tree should, and if a heavier cropper, would need careful thinning. The leaves are quite subject to curl leaf; but this may be controlled by spraying.

FRUIT—Medium large, round oval, one side somewhat larger than the other, suture distinct; skin, lemon yellow, with fine red cheek; stone free, deeply corrugated, pointed. **FLESH**—Yellow, tender, juicy, melting; flavor rich, agreeable and very good.

SEASON—September 20th to 25th, about a week later than Crawford's Early.

QUALITY—Dessert very good; cooking best.

VALUE—Home market very good; foreign market, best.

PROGRESS, THE MOTTO IN FRUIT GROWING.

WE have often advocated improved methods in fruit growing, and no doubt many of our readers have themselves felt the importance of waking up to the new conditions of this era. New markets require new packages, special varieties, and special storage. Twenty-five years ago, when we planted our orchards, it was with the view of pleasing our near markets, and we filled our order with all the varieties in the nurseryman's catalogue; but now, for distant market, we want just one or two special varieties—the best of their kind, so that we may gain an honorable name, and consequently high prices. To do this we shall be compelled to top graft our apple and pear orchards, and replant our peach orchards, with a view to the special demands now claiming our attention. Perhaps no one man at the present day has done more to give us high grade varieties of fruits than Mr. Luther Burbank, of California, and we quote what he says in the American Agriculturist on the subject before us. He says:

The fruit grower of to-day must have the ability to adapt himself to the new methods, new fruits and new markets. By use of cold storage and rapid transit the finest fruit from every land can

be found in any large market, both in and out of season, for while the fruits of one hemisphere are first waking from their winter's sleep, on the other the summer sun has done its work and the ripened fruits are on their way to distant markets. With the world as a market, competition is keen, and only the best fruits in the best condition will pay. Furthermore, it generally costs much less per ton to produce large, first-class fruit than the poorest, meanest specimens that are ever offered. Small fruit exhausts the tree more rapidly than large fruit. It will thus readily be seen that improved varieties which produce uniformly large, fine fruit are the more economical manufacturers of fruit, and also that the product is more salable.

The tree which needs a good deal of pruning to keep it in proper form and vigorous health should be replaced by one that has a better habit of growth, for every ton of wood taken unnecessarily from an orchard represents at least as much weight of fruit. Many varieties have two or three superior qualities, but woefully lack in many others. The fruit grower of to-day is simply the manufacturer, and should have the latest and best improvements. Of course there never can be one variety which will be best for all purposes, but it is perfectly possible to produce varieties which for their own special use can be relied upon to produce full crops of the best fruit without fail. All this can be done by careful selection and breeding.

BETTER PRICES.—Fruit growers have had their seasons of discouragement, too many of them, but now the indications are brighter. Canners are already making contracts for fruit at higher prices, showing that their goods are on the advance.