

A Proposed History of North American Pomology 1860 - 1965

D. V. FISHER*
Summerland, B. C.

In 1950 the late Dr. U. P. Hedrick, Director of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, published an important volume entitled "A history of North American horticulture to 1860." This interesting book covered all phases of early horticulture including fruit, vegetables, ornamentals and nursery stock. Since that time, some histories of horticulture in specific areas have been prepared.

The American Pomological Society proposes to extend Hedrick's work up to the present time by preparing "A History of American Pomology, 1860-1965." The time appears ripe for starting work on such a publication while so many retired and near-retired pomologists can be called upon to evaluate, from personal experience, the progress of pomology in the past 50 years. These are years which have produced great advances in the field of pomology.

At the request of Mr. W. A. Luce, President of the American Pomological Society, the author has agreed to assume the Chairmanship of an A.P.S. committee to undertake the project. Each committee member will need to be responsible for the collection and editing of a certain aspect of the work. D. V. Fisher would welcome suggestions in naming the committee. It is hoped that the committee can have a full scale discussion of the project in December, at which time specific proposals can be considered.

As a starting point it is suggested that the history be divided into seven

sections. These are as follows:

1. The rise and development of pomology in the U. S. land-grant colleges and Experiment Stations and Canadian Universities and Experiment Stations. For each state and province, a given number of pages or words would be assigned, in which the major interests and accomplishments (excepting disease and insect control) of each institution together with a chronological list of the department heads to the present time would be listed.
2. The development of pomological programs by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Canada Department of Agriculture. List units, dates, officers and principal accomplishments by units.
3. The development of spray materials for insect control.
4. The development of spray materials for disease control.
5. The development of orchard equipment including sprayers.
6. Significant textbooks of horticulture and pomology published, as well as proceedings of state and provincial horticultural and pomological societies, listing number of volumes published.
7. A short history of the American Pomological Society listing major accomplishments, winners of the Wilder Medal, and succession of presidents and secretaries.

*Director of fruit research, Dominion Research Station.