

MINNESOTA'S PRIDE

Historic Fort Snelling is to
be reproduced in
Apples.

FINE DISPLAY OF FRUIT.

Bread-and-Butter State is proving
its Right to another Name.

From the beginning of the Pan-American Exposition, Minnesota has displayed an enterprise that has put to blush many of her sister States. She was early in the field with a beautiful building which contains an elaborate educational exhibit, the largest made by any State at the exposition. The model of the new \$3,000,000 State Capitol at St. Paul in the Dairy building, sculptured in butter, is the wonder and admiration of thousands of visitors, and the Minnesota booths and exhibits in the various buildings all attract favorable attention.

Minnesota is now adding the crowning feature of all by reproducing in fruit the original historic Fort Snelling, built in 1820, at the junction of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, six miles above St. Paul.

An Express representative met H. P. Hall, one of the Minnesota board of managers, yesterday and obtained a description of the novel feature, which is now being installed in Horticulture building.

There has been a popular impression that the climate of Minnesota is so severe as to preclude the production of fruit, but that idea is now being rapidly dispelled by results. Minnesota has an active horticultural association which is not surpassed by any State in the Union and that stimulates fruit production. At the annual meeting a few weeks ago it was shown that over 1,000,000 bushels of apples were raised in Minnesota last year and the quality of the fruit is unsurpassed anywhere. Plums, grapes and many other fruits are raised in profusion and at no distant day Minnesota will be as famous as a fruit State as it now is as the Bread-and-Butter State.

The Jewell nursery at Lake City, Minnesota, started over 30 years ago, is one of the pioneers in the production of fruit. It now has about 800 acres in fruit and is supplying to the rest of the State trees which have been practically tested and known to be adapted to the climate. The enterprising proprietor, J. M. Underwood, displayed at the recent State fair at St. Paul a reproduction of the original Fort Snelling in apples and this is now being reproduced at the Pan-American Exposition. John Nordine, who has been connected with the nursery for many years, was the designer of the piece. Mr. Nordine can be properly termed a horticultural-architectural genius. He arrived in Buffalo yesterday and is now actively at work in reproducing the novel structure.

The floor space occupied is 24 by 24 feet and the fort rises to a height of 18 feet. It stands upon a platform raised one foot

from the floor, the whole space being surrounded by a neat railing. At the base there are seven shelves in the form of stairs eight inches wide, each shelf stair rising six inches above the other. Back of each shelf is a mirror which makes the pleasant illusion of doubling the quantity of fruit displayed. The mirrors at the top shelf are four in number, 20 inches wide and 10 feet long, so inclined that they reflect the entire display below and that, with the other mirrors, increases the illusion so that the display is seemingly quadrupled.

Behind those upper mirrors are large vases containing cut flowers, the vases being concealed by mirrors and the flowers rising above them. The mirrors are tastefully decorated with vines.

The shelving which surrounds the fort requires 840 feet of lumber and the fruit display thereon is magnificent.

In the center of the shelving, already described, is the reproduction of the original cylindrical Fort Snelling. The fort is built around an erect pivotal piece of timber upon which it rests by braces, the whole face of the fort being covered with apples. The circumference of the fort is 28 feet and 3 inches, the diameter 9 feet and 8 inches and the height from the floor 18 feet. There are four portholes 22 by 28 inches from which protrude cannon 5 feet long made of crabapples, two bushels of apples being used for each gun. A happy conceit is a white dove, typical of peace, perched at the mouth of each cannon. Between the respective portholes are three loopholes for musketry, trimmed with mountain ash berries.

While the face of the fort is largely covered with Wealthy apples, a variety for which Minnesota is justly famous, there are over 50 varieties of apples displayed in the entire exhibit.

At the top of the fort there is a cornice or frieze made of crabapples, several bushels being used for that purpose.

The entire display requires 80 bushels of apples for one setting and 200 bushels have been shipped from Lake City, Minnesota, to Buffalo, the surplus to be kept in cold storage to replenish the fort with fresh fruit during the remainder of the exposition.

At one corner of the base there is an entrance within the fort obscured with plants and flowers. Once within there is a commodious reception-room with tables and chairs. There is also a stairway around the pivotal timber so that the visitors can go up and look over the top of the fort.

Within the reception-room there is electric power so that the fort slowly revolves with pleasing effect. On each projecting corner of the platform at the base of the fort there are placed large glass jars containing a fine assortment of choice apples, plums, strawberries, raspberries and gooseberries. These are preserved by the French process and will keep for years and, on being taken out and cooked, cannot be distinguished, by the taste, from fresh fruit.

At the four corners of the piece are elaborate Minnesota banners and at the top an American flag is flying over the announcement that Minnesota is "The Bread-and-Butter State."

When finished the exhibit will be a most novel and attractive addition to the Horticulture building and will increase the fame and laurels Minnesota has already won at the Pan-American Exposition. It is a triumph of which the State may well be proud.