

With a finality that comes only from knowing whereof one talks, W. P. Romans, secretary of the agricultural bureau of the Chamber of Commerce, settled the controversy among congressmen as to which state produces the best apples for making apple pies.

Mr. Romans' final verdict is that the quality of apple pies is due almost entirely to the work of the cook. He has been recognized as an expert on apples since the days of the old apple shows and interstate fairs, and draws on his many years of service to agriculture and the apple business to explain just what is a good apple pie.

"The first essential to making a good pie is to have some one who knows how to make it", Mr. Romans said today. "Making an apple pie is something more than merely putting apples into the pie shell. The real apple pie must have sugar added in just the right proportion and spices too. The proportion depends somewhat on the apples used, but the apple pie bakers' art knows how to bring out the delicate flavor of the apple by a proper application of these ingredients.

"If the congressmen who think New York, Michigan, Ohio, or Virginia apples are the only ones for pie, eat some pies made by a real cook who knows her spices and how to use them to bring out the evasive apple flavors, they will want more of them.

"The important part of this controversy is that through ignorance of varieties of apples, many people have not used the right apples or not the right apples at the right time for making their pies. And then they blame the state that raises them.

"The Delicious apples are unsurpassed for eating. But as a cooking apple or for pies they are not the best. But its place is on the table as an eating apple, and there it should stay. Easterners pay fancy prices for large red Delicious apples because of the superb flavor.

"Delicious apples are not generally raised in the east. The eastern varieties, many of which do well in the West, are all cooking varieties. We too have cooking varieties. There are Bananas, Romes, and Winesaps. But one must not use the Winesaps until late winter, for any purpose, the Romes and Bananas being late fall and early winter apples. An apple is picked before it is perfectly ripe; otherwise it would not keep into winter."

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