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HORTICULTURE

United States Apple Trade

Apples going into the United States are now dutiable at 10c a bush, which is equivalent to 30c on a three bushel barrel, or 25c on a Nova Scotia barrel. Previous to the passing of the Underwood Tariff Bill the rate was 25c a bushel, 70c for a large barrel and 60c for a small barrel, and then there was the duty on the barrel. This tariff was almost prohibitive. What are the chances for trade under the new conditions? Perhaps the following quotations collected among the produce dealers of Toronto and Buffalo by an editor of Farm and Dairy on October 13 and 14, will give a clue. These are quotations made by the trade to retail dealers:

Table with columns for Date, Toronto, and Buffalo prices for various apple varieties like No. 1913, No. 1910, No. 1909, No. 1907, No. 1906, etc.

During the year ending March 31st last, we imported from the United States 319,726 bbls. of apples, while our exports to the United States totalled 156,116 bbls. The great difference between exports and imports is explained by the shipment of Western United States fruit into the prairie provinces and also by well-packed Oregon and Washington fruit that regularly finds a market in Canada.

Peaches, plums and pears have also been reduced from 25c a bush to 10c. The following quotations are for October 15th of this year:

Table with columns for Toronto and Buffalo prices for Peaches, Plums, and Pears.

SOME EXPERT OPINION "I don't believe that Canada will cut much of a figure in our fruit markets this year," remarked the manager of the National Fruit and Produce Co. of Buffalo. "At present we are quoting \$3.25 to \$3.50 f.o.b. for Kings, 30 cents apples, \$3.50 to \$4.00 for high quality \$4.50 to \$5 a bbl. for early Spies. The barrel takes the preference on this market, although there is a good market for boxed apples if they are of choice. I am not a proponent for red apples, although there is not much discrimination between these and the yellow and green varieties."

"We have imported a few peaches from the Grimsby district this year after our own crop was exhausted. The fruit, however, was over-ripe, and not very satisfactory. Grapes are commanding \$45 to \$50 a ton for juice; eight pound baskets of grapes now sell at \$90 to \$92 a hundred 'balesale; but with an ordinary crop the price would be \$15 to \$17 a hundred. I have seen our four pound baskets of grapes sell at 75c to \$1 a doz."

Wax & Sugarman, commission merchants of Buffalo, stated their prices for Spies f.o.b. as \$3.25. "We also have a good market for the small Sweeties and Bellflowers are a good seller," said the firm representative. "Apples in barrels are the best sellers here. Apples in boxes must be real fancy and graded to

size. We receive a lot of California fruit and have exported considerable quantities of it to Canada. We attribute this to the large size, good coloring, and splendid packing of the Calif. gala fruit. We do not believe that California fruit is as good quality as Eastern fruit, but it is attractive to look at. Our growers are getting more careful, but they have to go some yet to equal the California stuff."

"How do the prices you have given us for apples compare with ordinary years?" we asked. "With an average crop," was the reply, "quotations would be 75c to \$1 a bbl. less."

MR. R. THOMPSON'S OPINION

In a recent letter Mr. Robert Thompson of St. Catharines, manager of the St. Catharines Cold Storage and Forwarding Co., speaks of the new tariff conditions as follows: "In seasons of scarcity of fruit or vegetables in the states, owing to drought or other causes, there will be a greater demand for produce from here, should we be favored with a good crop. It will also create a good demand for fruit and vegetables that are grown here in greater abundance and to better perfection owing to our less seasons. We will try for the present not have to contend with any shipments across the line, owing to the high Canadian tariff."

Mr. Thompson then goes on to point out that he does not fear United States competition, even should their fruit enter Canada duty free, importing Canadian growers could provide their supplies of baskets and so forth, 50% free. He would not object to a trade agreement with free United States produce and dutiable supplies.

THE SITUATION SUMMARIZED

It would seem that the reduced tariff will lead to increased trade with the United States. The years of short crops in that country, and that it will also make Canadian growers less dependent on the British and prairie markets than they have been in the past.

In the extreme east Nova Scotia growers should derive great benefit from the new conditions. In the Annapolis Valley they have a large production of apples and practically no home market. The market will be established a trade in that direction even the one most easily reached by cheap water transportation is found in the United States cities of the Eastern coast. Nova Scotia growers will establish a trade in that direction even with the duty of 25c a bbl. that still holds against their apples.

In the extreme west, British Columbia growers cannot hope to benefit by the new tariff. They already own in competition with Oregon fruit on the prairie markets. They export practically none south of the line.

In Ontario the benefits will be largely decided by crop conditions to the south. Ontario growers, too, will probably benefit by the stronger market that is found in the states for yellow and green varieties, which are at a discount in Canada.

Canadian cattle going into the United States for exhibition purposes at the National Dairy Show, Chicago, will not need to comply with regulations as to the tuberculin test.

Give pears clay soil; the peach likes sand the best. The apple loams; but here we would suggest: That orchards are for fruits, and not for hay. And compromise between the two won't pay.

New Pro

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