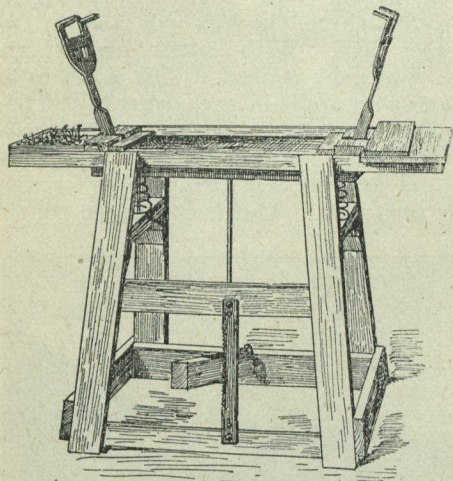


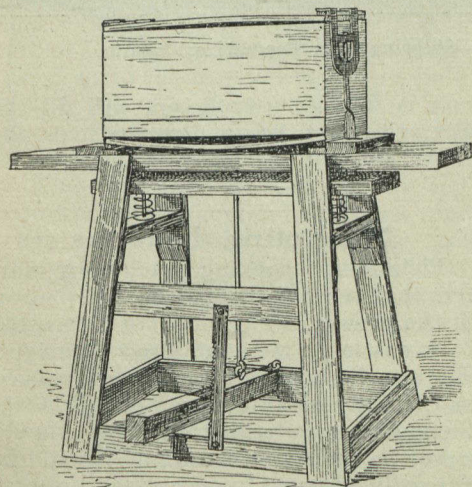
How to Pack Apples in Boxes*

THE basis of rapid box packing is good, even grading. The packer should have before him an even run in point of size, without which it will be impossible for him to do rapid work, or indeed do good work. Grading for quick, good work in box packing is,



Nailing Bench, Easily Made with Assistance of Blacksmith

of course, dependent largely upon size and color. It will not do to place apples of markedly different sizes in the same box. It is desirable neither for appearance nor for rapid packing. No accurate calculation can be made upon the style of pack, and no uniformity can be secured in the layers, if the sizes are markedly different. Nevertheless, it is impossible to secure in the apple perfect



Box of Apples on Bench with Cover in Place

uniformity in size and shape, but this inequality in size and shape must never be so great as to offend the eye of the fastidious customer. It is upon these very slight differences of size and shape, however, that the best qualities of a good pack depend.

It must not be understood that any good packer will associate two apples differing materially in size. The really skilful packer will take the very slightly smaller apples and use these at the ends of the boxes, the larger always going towards the middle of the box. But this difference in the size of the end and the middle apples is so slight that only the practised eye of the packer would detect it.

The skilful packer will also take advantage of the slight inequalities in shape. Very few apples are exactly symmetrical, whether you cut them from stem to basin or transversely. If then the packer finds that there is a slight slackness in a row of apples which he is packing across the box, he can usually make this perfectly tight by

boxes. This would exclude a very large part of the apples in eastern orchards. It may as well be understood, once for all, that the packer who has no higher conception of the box business than to think of it as a receptacle for scabby or wormy apples, had better pack his apples in barrels. He will get a much better price for them, and will not be lowering the reputation of the high-class apples that should be packed exclusively in boxes.

It may be well here to draw attention to another matter of observation, namely, that very few men who have been used to barrel packing ever succeed in the box trade. Rougher methods that have served them in the barrel trade are unconsciously practised when they take up the box trade, and failure is the in-



It is Bad Practice to Leave Apples in Piles on Ground in the Orchard

simply turning the specimens one way or the other. Of course, the opposite fault of being somewhat too crowded can be remedied by the same process. Thus the packer will build up a layer from end to end of the box with apples slightly smaller in the ends, with the larger ones towards the middle of the box, and yet the most critical customer would not be offended by any difference in the specimens.

It is perhaps not equally important to grade to color, yet this adds greatly to the appearance of the finished box. If then the packer has the choice, he will put the lighter-colored apples in one box and the highly-colored apples in another. Both boxes may sell equally well, but neither would have sold so well had the apples been mixed in color in each box.

It may not be superfluous to say that it is presupposed that no wormy or scabby apples are permitted to go into

avoidable result. Barrel packers, therefore, who do attempt the box business must divest themselves entirely of many habits and methods of work that may not have interfered with their being fairly successful as barrel packers.

STYLE OF PACK

The simplest method of packing a box of apples is nothing more than the barrel pack practised with boxes. The face is placed upon the box by a method quite similar to that of facing a barrel, and the apples are then placed on the top of this face with no regard to regularity. It is needless to say that such a method of packing a box will result in absolute failure. It has been tried in eastern Canada many times, and always with disastrous results. The box is not nearly so well suited to this style of packing as the barrel, and consequently it is more difficult to get a tight package.

*Extracts from Ottawa bulletin, No. 19, entitled, "The Packing of Apples in Barrels and Boxes," by Alex. McNeill, Chief Fruit Division.