

✂ Our Markets. ✂

THE ENGLISH APPLE MARKET.

The amount of winter apples that has gone forward this season to Great Britain has been less than that of many other seasons, and yet, owing to the inferior quality of the shipments, the prices have not advanced in the proportion which might have been expected.

James Adams, Son & Co., of Liverpool, say that the total number of barrels of apples received there up to the 3rd of December was 431,000, while up to the same date last year the number was 478,000.

The prices as quoted in the middle of December ranged from 10/ to 17/ for ordinary varieties, while Kings have reached as high as 25/. Unfortunately a large proportion has been sold at from 10/ to 15/, which leaves but a small margin for the shipper. One carload was sent forward to Liverpool by the writer, which consisted of stock inferior to that of most years; the returns netted about \$1.50 per barrel all around. Considering the quality, this was satisfactory and better than could have been realized in our own markets.

Henry Theakstone, of Liverpool, says, "It is fortunate that the supply of apples has been smaller during the month of November than it was during the same month of last year, for the demand has been as poor, owing to the fact that the apples received from Canada have been less satisfactory."

James Adams, Son & Co., of Liverpool, wrote on the 7th of December, "The demand continues very good for apples, but the prices do not advance as we should like to see them. This is no doubt attributable to the depressed condition of trade generally, and also that the bulk of fruit now arriving is anything but choice. The losses sustained on fall stock must have been very heavy this season, but, as Mr. A. McD. Allan explained in his article in the November No. of the CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST, the poor quality, in most instances, was the cause of the very unfavorable results. Then again the shipments of this class were far too heavy, as the fruit being of the soft nature, the buyers were compelled to realize speedily if they were to get their money back again."

The following are some of the latest quotations from circulars of actual sales of Canadian apples, by some of the prominent commission houses in the British market:

J. C. Houghton, Liverpool, writes under date of December 10, "Baldwins 12/ to 16/; Greenings 13/ to 16/; Spys 12/ to 16/; Russets 11/ to 13/; Kings 17/ to 25/; Ben Davis and Canada Red 12/ to 15/; Russets difficult to sell." Under date of December 15th they write, "Since our last report the arrivals have been heavy, and, though the demand continues good, especially for good quality, prices slightly receded, the decline being chiefly on inferior parcels. Yesterday Canadian Baldwins sold at 11/ to 15/9; Greenings 13/ to 16/; Spys 12/ to 15/9; Golden Russets 11/ to 13/9; Kings 16/ to 23/6."

Woodall & Co., of Liverpool, write under date of December 10th, that of the arrivals from Canada some are doubtful, but there is a general improvement in quality. Still it was difficult to maintain to earlier prices, and there was occasionally a slight decline. Newtown Pippins still head the list at 33/ to 42/ a bbl.; coming next are the Kings, bringing in some cases as high as 25/6, with Greenings 10/ to 17/; Ribston Pippins 13/ to 17/ and Baldwins 15/ to 18/.

L. Connolly & Co., of Liverpool, wrote under the same date, that the market is active for all Canadian varieties, except Golden Russets, and this description is difficult to sell. Newtown Pippins are in demand for Christmas consumption.

McGeorge & Jardine, of Liverpool, Edgecombe, Rogers & Co., of Liverpool and James Adams, Son & Co., of Liverpool, all send us numerous catalogues of sales made at very much the same run of prices as those above quoted.

There is one curious thing about the English market, and that is the little difference made between the first and second grades of apples, by the wholesale trade. Sales show No. 2, and windfalls, of staple varieties, selling for within a shilling or two of the prices got for the extra selected stock. The range was from 10/ to 15/, many of the No. 2 grade bringing 12/. In view of the fact that English people do appreciate extra selected fruit, paying us as high as \$4.00 per barrel for it, free on board at Grimsby, there is surely something wrong when the wholesale markets do not observe a greater difference in prices between the grades of our fruit. Possibly this may be rectified when we have a Dominion inspector whose brand will be recognized in the British markets.

CABLES.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 30.—Market dull, owing to being overstocked. Ship lightly at present.