

THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

Government of Canada had done more than any governments in the world in the matter of paternalism in connection with agricultural product and their sale. He held that it was useless to look to the United States market, and that Great Britain was our only hope. It was an inexhaustible market for surplus products of both the United States and Canada, and having recently returned from England, he was able to say that there was a great desire to encourage trade with Canada, and a very strong and growing feeling in favor of giving preferential trade to the colonies. He saw Canadian products of all kinds landed in England last autumn in such bad condition that he was ashamed to be recognized as a Canadian. Apples had been shipped with fruit of first class quality at each end of the barrel and perhaps a bushel of culls in the centre. If such a thing became common the English people would not be fooled, and Canada's trade would be ruined. He urged Canadian apple growers to be careful in future in catering to the taste of the English consumers. For small consignments of specially selected fruit he would advocate shipping in cases of about fifty pounds, but for large shipments he did not know that they had yet discovered any improvement on the barrel.

Mr. Brodie asked in what manner should tomatoes be sent to England. This was a matter of great importance to producers on the island of Montreal.

Mr. Crandall said that it did not matter much if the tomatoes arrived in good condition. The Grimsby people first shipped very large tomatoes last year, but it was a failure as the English people wanted a small round tomato with a fine skin.

Mr. Shepherd said that for fifteen years he had been shipping to England the choicest table apples in cases, but got

no profitable result until he made trade connections with special firms who sold them. He believed there was no use shipping to ordinary produce dealers in cases. They allowed nothing for the special care and extra expense in putting them by. In fact, in 1895 he lost five shillings a case on some.

Mr. Crandall said that next year they would endeavor to make further improvements on steamers in the matter of getting rid of the hot air in the hold of a vessel carrying apples. This would improve their conditions.

Mr. J. M. Fisk, of Abbotsford, read an instructive paper on "Pruning."

Mr. R. W. Shepherd, speaking on the failure of the apple crop of 1897, said :

No doubt, to a great extent, at least, the phenomenally heavy crop of 1896 was the cause of the small crop of 1897. But we must look further for the cause of the bad quality of this small crop. Excepting, perhaps, a few early varieties, the whole crop of this province was undersized and ill looking. Never in my experience have I seen such a miserable crop of Fameuse, as that of the past season. No district seems to have been more favored than another, and the proportion of number one fruit in the crop was not, I believe, more than five per cent., and in some cases even less than that. As a general rule, we orchardists of the Province of Quebec have the great advantage of snow protection to the roots of our trees ; but the winter of 1896 97 was an exception to that rule, and, consequently, the roots of the trees were exposed to the very severe and continuous frosts of last January and February, which penetrated four and five feet below the surface of the ground.

Those orchards in sod, although the trees were much shocked and injured, were able to survive and feebly develop their fruit. The small size of the fruit,