

products until Canadian cheese has taken first rank in the English markets and our Canadian butter is coming well to the front. Our Government might go a little further in their good work, and instruct the farmer in the care of their orchards, the proper use of chemicals to destroy insects and fungi in our fruit trees, and also in packing and the best packages. No doubt the farmers in fruit sections who combine dairying and fruit growing make the most money. I believe it would be a good thing when building cold storage houses at the butter and cheese factories to add, with a little more expense, a cold storage room for apples as well. What we need to make apple exportation a success for the Province of Quebec is cold storage steamships, cheap transportation (not like our steamship companies, who raise the rates to 12 cents per barrel as soon as apples come in plentifully, and our railway companies, who put on their winter rates for freight before the close of navigation), and we need representation in the British markets to look after our interests.

Mr. R. W. Shepherd read the following paper :

#### LA FAMEUSE AND THE APPLE CROP OF 1896.

The apple crop of 1896 will long be remembered as that of the greatest on record throughout the apple growing regions of the North American continent.

We are not able to estimate the quantity of bushels, but that the crop was phenomenal goes without saying. The exportation to Europe was the largest ever known—725,016 barrels shipped from the port of Montreal alone. Moreover, a very large proportion of the crop was never marketed, but allowed to go to waste or was fed to live stock, so that it is impossible to form any estimate of the great apple crop of 1896, but we know it was too immense, too unwieldly and too bountiful to be handled profitably by the growers.

There is such a thing as having "too much of a good thing," but it is improbable that such a favorable condition of things or circumstances which produced this crop, will ever obtain for a very long time throughout the apple growing districts of America. But it is in a year of plenty, like the last, that we discover many things which otherwise may not come under our observation.

First. That the growers of the Province of Quebec are particularly fortunate in being situated within easy access of the great sea port of Montreal. We are more favorably situated in respect to shipping than are our brothers in Ontario, who have hitherto been the greatest shippers of apples—not excepting our friends in Nova Scotia—from the Dominion. Last season was the first on record that Quebec growers attempted, to any extent at least, to ship their apples to Britain instead of disposing of them at the commercial centres of the province, etc. I say we are particularly fortunate in being so near the shipping port. That Duchess, picked and packed, rather on the green side, were profitably disposed of in Liverpool and Glasgow—even without cold storage—is entirely owing to the fact that we are able to dispense with the long land carriage. The Quebec grower within a radius of fifty miles from Montreal was able to pack his apples and put them on the steamship the following day, and