

Packing Apples in Boxes

THE fruit packers of Ontario using boxes are creating a very unfavorable impression in the Old Country by the use of an excessive amount of excelsior. The trade in Great Britain entirely misunderstand the object of this excelsior. They take it for granted that it is put in the cases for the purpose of economising in the quantity of fruit. As a matter of fact, our Ontario packers have not yet acquired the art of packing an apple box properly. It is quite possible, with almost any size of apple, to fill the box recommended by the Ontario, Québec and British Columbia Fruit Growers' Associations (10 x 11 x 20 inches, inside measurement) with the use of very little, if any, packing material; and those who are using boxes largely will do well, during the remainder of the season, to practice box packing. The box has come to stay, and those who first acquire skill in its use will reap the reward. Let us have numerous private experiments in the art of packing a box of apples properly, as well as public demonstrations by competent packers at Farmers' Institutes and Horticultural meetings.—*Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa.*

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THE MICHIGAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY will hold a two days' meeting at Port Huron on the 3rd and 4th of March, with the idea of making it international in character. Mr. L. B. Rice asks that we extend a hearty invitation to all members of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association to attend. He says further: "The meeting will open at 9.30 standard time on our side, and again at 1.30. At 4 o'clock there will be an extra meeting for the school children. If Prof. Hutt can bring several of his students with him we shall try and have some from the Michigan

Agricultural College give them a reception at 7 p. m."

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DR. JAMES MILLS, President of the O. A. C., Guelph, has been appointed a member of the Railway Commission, of which the other members are Mr. Bernier and the Hon. A. S. Blair, the latter being chairman. Mr. Blair is an extremely able lawyer, and has had much to do with the formation of the present railway act which comes in force on the 1st of February. Farmers and fruit growers alike all applaud the selection of Dr. Mills as one who knows their needs and has the deepest interest in their prosperity.

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MR. G. C. CREELMAN has been appointed successor to Dr. Mills as president of the Ontario Agricultural College. We know of no one in the province better fitted to take up the responsibilities of this very important position. He has excellent natural abilities united with a long course of technical education, besides having had experience in college work while professor of biology in the State Agricultural and Mechanical College of Mississippi. He has a wonderful aptitude in managing men and affairs, and all who know him will unite in favor of his appointment to this important position.

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MUCH HAS BEEN SAID in favor of thinning fruit on apple trees. President T. B. Wilson, of the New York Fruit Growers' Association, says: "When there is a general crop of apples and the crop, or set, is very full, so that the chance for small fruit is very great and widespread over the country, I think it would pay to thin to such an extent as to insure good-sized fruit. Aside from this I do not think it would pay, only for the protection of the tree."