

Canadian Fruit in England;

Mr. Harrison Watson, Trade Commissioner, London, Eng.

Large shipments of pears have been arriving in London lately, but up to October first, although prices had fallen to some extent, the market has borne these abnormal supplies well and the drop has been less than might have been anticipated. Unfortunately, as is usually the case when the existence of a shortage becomes known, shippers are apt to overdo things, and as still heavier consignments are reported in incoming steamers, while a good many of the pears now arriving are over-ripe and otherwise less carefully selected, a less favorable condition of affairs is likely to be encountered.

The pears come mainly from the United States and Canada, and it is satisfactory to learn from Messrs. W. Dennis & Sons, Ltd., who have handled large supplies of both, that the decline in prices has been more noticeable in the case of Hudson river barrel and other American fruit, the quality of which was inferior to the bulk of the Canadian pears.

CANADIAN SHIPMENTS

Some Canadian Bartlett's in barrels realized twelve dollars a barrel (160 lbs. net), which is considered very satisfactory. The firm has also handled a considerable quantity of half-boxes of Bartlett's, the bulk of which has come from Canada. Although the bulk of Canadian pears arrived in good condition, and were well packed, in some cases only a portion of the fruit was wrapped, this being usually one row only of the top layer. Messrs. Dennis & Sons, Ltd., consider that this is unwise, and that each pear should have its wrapper, and they point out that "the fruit looks much nicer when wrapped in the grower's printed wrapper, sells much more freely and invariably makes more money."

PEACH SALES

It is reported from Ottawa that a good many peaches have been sent to the United Kingdom, but only a small proportion of these appear to have been consigned to London. Messrs. Dennis & Sons, Ltd., received some of these and speak very highly of the quality of the fruit and the condition in which it was marketed. They state that the few boxes which they received met with a ready sale, boxes containing thirty-six to forty-eight fruits being sold at two dollars and twenty-five cents to two dollars and seventy-five cents, which is an enormous advance upon the prices realized in former years. It should be noted, however, that the present condition of the fruit market is quite exceptional, owing to the almost universal failure of the fruit crops generally, and that whereas there is no reason why a regular and profitable trade in Canadian peaches should not be developed, shippers cannot hope to secure anything like these prices in an average year.

As mentioned, these boxes of peaches were well packed, but dealers report that the use of a certain quantity of excelsior or wood wool is to be strongly recommended. Although the condition of these particular peaches could not be improved upon, their experience is that this delicate fruit is liable to be bruised in transit, and unless this class of packing is adopted, damage from this source is sure to occur from time to time.

COMMENTS BY LEADING IMPORTERS

Messrs. R. & W. Davidson, Ltd., who have handled a large proportion of the Canadian pears which have been shipped not only to London but also to Liverpool and Glasgow, this season, state that generally speaking the condition in which the fruit arrived has been excellent, and they



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