

THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

selves, we herewith give them a few hints as to what we consider necessary in the way of packing. In the first place we may mention the fruit cannot be too tight pressed. This is a very important item. Be particular that you brand the fruit according to the quality, so that there may be no chance of a second class barrel being opened in a parcel of fine quality. Were buyers to notice the like of this it would spoil the sale of the whole parcel, so it is safer to have them branded a cross or two crosses less, or another brand altogether. Also be particular to have the apples correctly named. We also strongly advise you to put felt paper on top and bottom, as owing to the smoothness of the felt, the skin of the fruit is preserved, and when opened they look nice and shiny. They also keep longer, hence the prices are greatly enhanced on account of the paper packing. Our advice to you also is that you should ship as early as possible, as all the early shipments make the biggest prices. Also use A 1 barrels, heads, and bottoms. Also A 1 hoops, and A 1 lines, and quarter hoops.

The quarter hoops ought to be nailed with $\frac{3}{4}$ inch nails and of a quality that will bend to clinch. These ought to be nailed and clinched previous to the apples being put in the barrel. By doing this the quarter hoops will not spring off, and the packages look much better when selling, and bring more money than when the hoops are wanting, which is often the case with badly coopered barrels.

LONDON, ENGLAND; Mr. John Fox writes:

Confirming my letter of August 17th, I beg to report that the estimated crop of English apples at that date is now found to be considerably less. This is attributed to the cold weather experienced here during June last, and the present estimate is that it will not be even an average half crop, as there are daily heavy arrivals of fallens upon the markets, and the prospects are that few or none will bear winter storing. Under the circumstances I have no hesitation in stating that well packed and graded apples from your district will do well here during the ensuing season.

* Our Book Table. *

WHOLESALE TRADE LIST of New and Rare Seeds, Plants, Bulbs, etc., grown by Mrs. Theodosie B. Shepherd, Vandalunda by the Sea, California.

FRIDTJOF NANSEN AM NORDPOL, don Louis Viereck. The Herold Co., Milwaukee.

CANADIAN HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.—First Annual Convention at Toronto, 7th and 8th September, 1898. Official programme.

TRANSON BROS NURSERIES, Borhier & Co., successors, 16 Route d'Olivet, Orleans, France, wholesale fruit and ornamental trees.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FRUIT GROWERS ASSOCIATION of Nova Scotia, annual meeting at Wolfville, January 26, 27, 28, 1898

AGRICULTURE, by C. C. JAMES, M.A., Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, former Professor of Chemistry in the O. A. C., Guelph; published by George N. Morang, Toronto, 1898. Price 25 cents.

We can heartily commend this book as a primary text book in agriculture. Indeed, we believe it will make possible, what has been so long thought desirable, the study of agriculture in our public and high schools. Previous text books have been entirely too technical and too narrow to be placed in the hands of the ordinary school boy; such books would tend to lessen his interest, because too advanced for him, but a book like this one will attract young people to the study of agriculture, and afterward into the practice of this honorable vocation. The book deals with the whole round of agriculture in a series of brief chapters, well illustrated, which serve as a grand introduction to further studies. Seven chapters are given to *The Plant*, three to *The Soil*, nine to *The Crops of the Field*, six to the *Garden, Orchard and Vineyard*, ten to *Live Stock and Dairying*, a chapter each to *Bees, Birds, Forestry,*

Roads, and The Rural Home, and an appendix giving lists of trees, weeds and spraying mixtures.

How a nicely bound book, of two hundred pages, like this one, be can sold for 25 cents, is a puzzle. We commend it to every reader.

LIFE ZONES AND CROP ZONES OF THE UNITED STATES, by C. Hart Merriam, Chief Biological Survey, Washington, 1898.

The ideal of this publication by the U. S. Dept. Agriculture is an excellent one, viz., to show the different life zones of the North American Continent, and the fruits which succeed in each. We can, of course, hardly expect justice would be done to Canada in this work, for even for us, the area of successful cultivation of different varieties is quite unsettled; yet the following sentence covering the Canadian zone is hardly to be accepted.

"In favored spots, particularly along the Southern border, white potatoes, turnips, beets, and more hardy Russian apples and cereals, may be cultivated with moderate success."

Again in the list of grapes, which succeed in the Transition zone, which takes a large part of Canada, we notice many varieties of grapes ruled out which certainly succeed, e.g., Brighton, Delaware, Iona, Lindley, Salem, etc.

Speaking of peaches, he says, "the Hale is the only peach known to thrive in the Transition zone." While as a matter of fact we know a good many varieties succeed even as far north as the Beaver Valley.

We must do Mr. Merriam the justice, however, of noting that he includes the Niagara and the Essex districts in the Upper Austral zone, which also embraces the state of Ohio.