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## Standardizing Canadian Fruit Packages

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So long as Canadian fruit growers confined themselves to supplying the local markets only, the question of uniformity of packages did not present particularly. Of late years, long distance markets have become more and more important and it is not too much to say that in a short time the long distance market will dominate the fruit trade. Under these circumstances the present is a favorable time to secure uniformity in packages throughout the Dominion. The importance of this feature is realized.



Alex. McNeill

Among the many reasons for having uniform packages none, perhaps, is more important than the question of economy in manufacture. Where the manufac-

turers know that all packages must conform to certain dimensions they can cut their material and they can calculate with reference to it much more readily and with far greater saving than where the matter of size is left to the whim of everyone who wishes to give an order. Manufacturers are intensely interested in uniform packages.

If packages are standardized many things can be done by machinery that otherwise would have to be done by hand. They can use up large quantities of material that might otherwise go to waste and they can give prices with confidence where the matter of dimensions is permanently established. The honest fruit grower has everything to gain through the standardization of packages. He wishes only to secure what is coming to him and is willing and anxious to give full measure. He does not want, however, to use packages five, ten or twenty per cent. larger than his neighbor uses. He is, therefore, often in a quandary to know just what package he may honestly use. Fortunately

in Canada we have already standardized certain packages with very satisfactory results. Nevertheless, much remains to be done.

### STANDARD PACKAGES

The apple barrel is standardized as to its minimum size, and this size applies to pears and quinces as well. The box is standardized for capacity for the home market as well as for the export market. The fruit basket is defined in four sizes, fifteen quarts or more, eleven quarts, six quarts, and two and two-fifths quarts. Dimensions are prescribed for the eleven and the six quart baskets. So far as these packages are concerned, it may be said with perfect truth that they are giving good satisfaction. However, if the Inspection and Sale Act is to be amended certain improvements probably will be made in all packages. For instance, in the case of the barrel it has been suggested that two sizes be prescribed, one corresponding to our minimum size and the other to the size used more frequently in Ontario. It is, I think, the general impression that to



Packing Apples in the Farmers' Exchange, Kelowna, B.C.