

lar to that used in Ontario but like the Nova Scotia barrel, slightly smaller. Of this package little need be said beyond the fact that for the great bulk of the ordinary crop of every year it is perhaps the best that can be devised. The use of eight hoops instead of the ordinary six is well worth the extra cost, both as producing a firmer and more rigid barrel and as providing most effective insurance against collapse of the package through the breaking of a single hoop.

#### BRITISH-MADE PACKAGES

By way of contrast, the home-made packages found in this market may be mentioned. They vary greatly in size, shape and material, but for the most part are of the hamper type, being closely woven, square-cornered wicker baskets, unprovided as a rule with covers. These hampers are lined with straw or other soft material, and the fruit appears to be poured in without any attempt at arrangement or packing, though indeed it is sometimes the case that the best fruit is reserved for the last, "topping off" the package most effectively.

In such packages as these some of the best home-grown fruit is offered for the markets. Even Ireland, which is beginning to produce some excellent varieties and to make good profits, does not seem to have seriously considered the desirability of adopting a package which will show the fruit at its best. There is no possible doubt that English and Irish apples would bring a much higher price if growers took the same trouble to grade and pack them as they do with smaller fruits.

#### THE FORTY-POUND BOX

At the other extreme from the careless style and methods of English packers, is the product of those who have adopted variations of the standard forty-pound box as known in Canada. Many of Canada's

keenest competitors use this package to the exclusion of all others. Beginning near home are the shippers of the Oregon Newtown Pippin, looked upon by many as the finest dessert apple that can be purchased in this country. These are never sent in anything but the box, neatly packed in rows and tiers, the number of the latter being indicated on the outside of the package. California Newtowns, inferior to those from Oregon and bringing shillings less per box in the market, are also carefully put up, each fruit being wrapped in paper, and the box exactly filled with specimens of a nearly uniform size. Australia has a somewhat similar package though frequently of rougher and harder wood, making not so good an appearance, and South Africa has followed suit to such good purpose, that many consider the South African packing to be the best in the world.

As pointed out in a recent report by the Acting Trade Commissioner for Manchester, the trade in boxed apples is visibly and vastly increasing every year, and yet Canada has almost no part in this increase. Whatever may be said for the fact that importers here are accustomed to and therefore prefer Canadian apples in barrels, it is obvious that the same fact holds good for United States fruit in general, yet this has proved no obstacle to the Oregon and California packers who find ready market for their goods, though never put up in barrels. It may be said at once that the difference lies in the fact that the latter ship nothing but choice fruit, and therein does indeed lie the secret, though it cannot be truthfully asserted that Californian consignments contain no inferior lots. Still, in the main, it is true that the British storekeeper or consumer likes to find in a box only carefully selected first quality fruit.

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