

Suggestions from British Importers

A number of interesting letters from British fruit importers have been received by The Canadian Horticulturist during the past couple of months. Among these have been the following:

James Adam, Son and Co., of Liverpool, have the following to say: "It is hardly fair to make any comment on the packing of Canadian apples during the last two seasons as, owing to the unfavorable crops, shippers were tempted to put in apples which at other times would have been discarded. At the same time we must admit that the standard of packing leaves something to be desired, as very often small, ill-shaped apples are found in the No. 1 grade, much to the detriment of prices here; while it is a matter of regret that No. 3's are shipped at all, as small apples are rarely appreciated, and what is more, when it is remembered that the cost of transport and handling is the same as on the No. 1 grade, the results cannot leave much to the shipper. Indeed, we are inclined to think that more could be realized at home; while their presence on this side prejudices the sale of the finer fruit.

"Californian and Washington apples are well packed, the fruit being mostly of uniform size, nicely papered, and carefully packed in tiers. This we know can be done when packed in boxes and where there is a plentiful supply of uniform sized fruit of one variety, but with so many mixed varieties, such as are grown in Canada, of varied sizes and shapes, then this style of packing does not lend itself to the same extent.

"For Canadian apples we much prefer the barrel, as it is a convenient package to handle and one that is favored by the trade

here. We would suggest, however, that the eight-hooped barrel should be used in preference to the six-hooped barrel, as the package is then much stronger, and there is more possibility of it arriving here in good shape than when six hoops only are used."

INTERESTING COMPARISONS

One of the largest fruit importers in Great Britain, Andrew Chalmers, of Glasgow, makes the following interesting comments: "The season just finished was our first big year of box apples from the Pacific Coast. We heard many complaints from the British public regarding the lack of flavour in the Californian apple. This of course cannot be said of apples from Ontario, and as apples in boxes are a coming feature, I would recommend shippers and growers in Ontario to box a portion of their apples.

"British Columbian and Californian shippers grow apples of good size and fair quality, and I would suggest that shippers in Ontario box only 'fancy' and No. 1 stock. The latter have the advantage of shippers on the Pacific Coast in regard to freight, and if shippers in Eastern Canada pack their apples as they do in British Columbia and California, the 'wise men of the east' would soon hold the export trade.

"It is foolish to ship No. 3 stock; this size of apple never pays to export. No part of the world can grow such quality as is grown in Ontario. No. 2 stock in barrels is always wanted, and has a big sale among a certain class of buyers here. No. 1 stock, honestly packed and graded, always commands a good price.

"Fruits of all kinds, and apples particularly, are sold more and more every year

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