

dispose of our products; if we aim at complete excellence in their production, and at careful management afterwards until they are disposed of; a new era of prosperity and success is dawning upon the painstaking, thoughtful, and industrious Canadian Farmer.

GEO. MOORE.

### EVAPORATED FRUIT.

The prospect is excellent for an abundant fruit crop of all kinds, and as is usual in prolific fruit seasons large quantities of fruit are wasted because of lack of a ready market for the green fruit during the season in which it will keep. This is particularly the case with "Seconds" or fruit of slightly inferior quality. Let us take apples for example. The best, if properly sorted and packed, always command a fair price, but the culls or seconds are difficult to dispose of at any price and much valuable fruit goes to waste, is fed to the swine, or at best sold for a song to be made into cider.

It is at this time that an evaporator is needed, one that is practical and economical, which will dry this surplus fruit and thus preserve it until such time as the green fruit has been exhausted, when it will sell for good prices. No one is so favorably situated for evaporating fruit as the fruit grower himself. The cost of a good evaporator is small and the work will be found congenial by young ladies or other members of the household. From 25 to 200 lbs. of evaporated apples can be made per day, the capacity depending on the size of the evaporator used. A bushel of green apples will make about seven pounds of evaporated apples. At the lowest figure at which first class evaporated apples have ever been sold, viz. 5½ cts a lb., a bushel of apples would bring about 35½ cts. when evaporated: about as much as is often realized at the orchard for first class fruit.

What has been said of apples is true of other kinds of fruit, as a good evaporator will dry all kinds of fruits and vegetables. Such evaporated fruits as Apples, Peaches, Pears, Plums etc. meet with ready sale everywhere, and Cherries, Berries and small fruits in general are also in demand wherever they have been introduced.

It is important to have a good evaporator, and such machines are now manufactured and sold in our own country on terms which make it easy for any farmer to own one. When such a machine is used and proper care taken Evaporated Fruit is most delicious. Common dried fruits must not be compared with evaporated fruits, and it is owing to the inferior quality of dried fruits that they demand no price and "go-a-begging" for buyers at almost any figure.

In the United States and some portions of Ontario the evaporating of fruits is carried on extensively and with great success. Quebec farmers and fruit growers should take hold of this matter and utilize a large amount of fruit this fall, which will otherwise go to waste, or if dried in the ordinary way become a drug on the market scarcely realizing enough to pay for transportation.

W. H. BARBER, Montreal.

### MARKETING APPLES.

**PACKING AND PACKAGES.**—A prime requisite towards attaining ultimate success in marketing orchard products is that the layer of fruit shown on

the top layer or upper specimens should be thoroughly and exactly representative of the quality of each package, whether this be basket, box or barrel. This "is honest packing", and when carried into practice, having with it the packer's brand and name, with the name of the variety, will soon win for itself a favourable reputation in the market, to which it is consigned. The question of honest packing receives every year, at the meetings of the different fruit growers' organizations of the Dominion, a good deal of consideration, but owing to the system in vogue, of selling to the dealer, and the difficulty of inspecting the stock when packed, the whole matter is yet in an undesirable and unsatisfactory condition. It is hoped that such a system of inspection will be devised and carried into operation as will result in guaranteeing that the quality of each barrel of apples shall be exactly represented by the brand and grade, which appears upon the end of the barrel—with regard to the kind of package. Soft and early apples should be put up in small packages. I would recommend the use of 10 and 20 lb. baskets as well as bushel boxes for marketing the finer grades of summer and autumn apples.

In packing apples it is always desirable to make at least three grades. The best should consist of sound, well-coloured specimens without blemish, uniformly of good size; the second grade should consist of sound specimens, smaller in size, less handsomely coloured, and possibly with slight blemishes. The third grade should consist of the small wormy, spotted or ill-formed specimens which could not properly be included in either of the preceding grades. This work is done more advantageously in the packing house than in the orchard. These houses are provided with sorting tables covered with carpeting or matting to prevent injury to the apples. The sorting tables, being provided with shallow slides and being inclined towards the sorter, who stands at one end, offer a convenient method of rapidly separating the fruit into the three grades as above outlined. The first and second grades should be carefully placed by hand into separate baskets, while the third and remaining grade may be swept into a receptacle at the end of the table. In packing or filling barrels, the end which is to be opened is placed downwards. It should be lined with a sheet of paper. On this a row of apples is placed with stems turned down. If another layer is ranged over this, so much the better. This is called "facing" the barrel and is an important part of the packing of a barrel of apples. Inasmuch as the layer exposed to view after the head is removed should fairly represent the contents of the barrel throughout. The remainder of the barrel is filled by gently emptying into it the baskets as filled on the grading table. During this process the apples should be settled down firmly by cautiously shaking the barrel once or twice. The last layer of apples should come slightly above the heading groove, so that when pressed down every apple is held firmly in place, but without being crushed. There is a move being made towards the introduction of a smaller package for winter apples than the barrel. This is a wooden box holding about a bushel of apples, neatly made of light and strong wood. These boxes are more easily handled than barrels, take up less space on board ship and may be "headed" without bruising the fruit. They also admit of the grower's name, with grade and name of fruit

being neatly printed upon the end. While to the writer this box appears to be a most desirable kind of package for the English and other foreign markets, yet the reports of commission merchants received this autumn discourage their use. These reports may be coloured by the lack of desire on the part of the Liverpool commission houses to introduce innovations which call for changes in their present methods of doing business. It is my opinion that there is a future for this kind of package.

For marketing early varieties of apples strong, lino covered baskets holding about 20 pounds of fruit, are undoubtedly the most suitable and profitable packages. This class of apples is bought in small quantities from the retailer and also requires quick handling. There is each year much loss resulting from the use of barrels in transporting early apples which might be greatly reduced by the use of smaller packages.

### PROMISE OF GOOD CROPS IN THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

In respect to inquiries made by the Director of Experimental Farms, as to the present condition of the crops in the North-West, the following particulars have been obtained:

#### MANITOBA

Mr. S. A. Bedford, Superintendent of the Experimental Farm at Brandon, under date of July 4th, says:

"All grain crops on the Farm are about one week later than usual. The wheat is just coming into head; in height it is above the average; the growth is rank and of a good dark colour; I have never seen it more promising. Six-rowed barley is just coming into head and promises to be a large crop; the two-rowed varieties are later. The oats are not in head yet, but they are quite rank and a good colour. Pease are thinner than usual but are quite promising, and the earlier varieties are in bloom. The growth of flax is excellent."

"Grasses of all kinds are much better than usual; this applies to the grasses sown this year as well as to the older fields. Mangels and carrots are in excellent condition, they have been thinned and are growing well. The turnip crop is not quite so promising, for the reason that the first leaves were attacked by a fungus."

"Garden vegetables are better than usual, and quite as early. Potatoes are coming into bloom and promise a large crop. From some unknown cause, red currants have dropped about 1-4th of the fruit from the ends of the branches; but they are still well loaded with large fruit, which is yet green. Raspberries and gooseberries are heavily laden with fruit. With the exception of Saskatoon berries, all wild fruits will be plentiful."

"Trees, shrubs and flowers have all made unusual growth; and blossom, and seed is exceptionally abundant."

"I have driven over the district south of this for forty miles, and the crops are very promising, fully equal to those on the Experimental Farm; and I am informed that the crops are also promising on every side of Brandon."

"In some parts of the Red River Valley the crops are not so good, for the reason that it has been too wet; the grain is thinner, and where drainage is insufficient, it is more or less yellow in colour."

### NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES

Mr. A. MacKay, Superintendent of the Experimental Farm at Indian Head under date of July 3rd, writes as follows:

"The crops on the Experimental Farm are very promising, indeed. At this time of the year we have never had better prospects for a large yield of wheat, barley, oats, pease, flax, hay, corn, brome-grass and root crops of all sorts."

"Trees and shrubs are doing extra well. The box elders have already made more growth than they have in some previous years for the entire season; and never before were the lilacs, caraganas, honeysuckles, spiraea, etc., so covered with bloom and now loaded with seeds. The currant trees and raspberry bushes are breaking down under the weight of fruit; and gooseberries and strawberries are also heavily laden. Native fruits are very abundant all over the country."

"The crops in the Indian Head district are all looking well, although grain in some places, late sown, is short in growth and may not escape autumn frosts. As far as I have been able to learn, the crops in Assiniboia promise well everywhere, also in Saskatchewan, but are said to be not so good in some parts of Alberta. Early sown wheat and six-rowed barleys are now coming out in head."

### The Poultry-Yard.

**A Retrospect—The month of August—Sitting hens and lice—A case of Gapes and the cure suggested—Quick treatment required.**

(A. G. Gilbert.)

In recent numbers of this paper the different methods of treatment of the sitting hen and the proper care and management of the newly hatched and growing chickens have been discussed at length. The importance of keeping the mother hen and brood, as well as the older and rapidly developing chicks free from lice has been urged and the best means of so doing given in detail. All are subjects of importance.

The month of August is now upon us, and if the poultry house has not been thoroughly cleaned and treated to a liberal coat of whitewash it should receive immediate attention. A small quantity of carbolic liquid mixed in the whitewash, will have a good effect. All the old straw in the nests should be removed and burned and the latter liberally sprinkled with coal oil. Indeed, when time permits, the nests for the layers should be cleaned out every month and coal oiled, so as to prevent the lodgment of lice. The complaint is sometimes made that the hens do not like to lay in the nests but prefer other places. The cause may be that the nests are lice infected and no hen will resort to such a nest if she can get to outside quarters. Nor will a sitting hen sit contentedly or successfully on a nest in which vermin have made their habitation. On the occasion of a recent excursion, one of a party of several farmers asked me, "Why it was that his breeding hens did not set quietly on their nests, but were continually standing up on their feet and frequently left their eggs?" I replied, "that the trouble was lice", and I explained that the hens stuck to their nests as long as they could, but that the lice had become so numerous