

cago, in 1893, in the larger number of the important classes, Canada carried off the bulk of the best awards. At the Pan-American, in 1901, a still greater victory came to the stockmen of the Dominion.

The decision is, therefore, not a case of fear, but the firm determination of Canadian breeders to no longer submit to the arbitrary and, to say the least, discourteous treatment which they are receiving at the hands of the United States authorities. So, discourteous is this treatment that even Canadian Herd Books, which are of as high a standard as any in the world, are not recognized. This non-acceptance of our record would necessitate the payment of a registration fee of \$100, and the other breeders in proportion. Even this would not be so galling were it not for the fact that the English Herd Books and likewise some of the colonies, such as New Zealand, are recognized. But this is not all. The regulations governing the importation of animals into the United States are such as to

make the sending of exhibits to St. Louis particularly trying to Canadian breeders. A breeder exhibits for two reasons: To make a display of his best animals and to enlarge the market for his stock. If he exhibits he expects to do business, and to be compelled to hold his exhibits in bond and to pay duty if he sells, is putting obstruction in his way with vengeance. So harassing and trying are these obstructions that it would seem as if all the backing down were on the part of the breeders of the United States. The regulations to which the Canadian breeder has to submit would certainly lead one to believe that his exhibits though asked for are not wanted.

However this may be, every Canadian will uphold the breeders in their decision. It has the ring of self-respect and independence and will, we believe, do more to bring about fair and neighborly treatment in our live stock trade with the United States than a dozen government deputations to Washington. If the United States do not wish to interchange pure-bred stock on fair and equitable terms we are strong enough and big enough to do business without them.

## The Marketing of Fruit

While the cultivation of the orchard and the care of the trees during the growing season are always of importance to the fruit grower, the feature of the business deserving the greatest attention at the present time is that of preserving and marketing the fruit. Thousands of dollars of good fruit is lost every year because the grower has no market for it. This is more particularly the case with fruits other than apples. Apples, if they are clean and of good quality, are nearly always a marketable commodity, no matter in what part of the country the grower may live. Not so with peaches, and more particularly pears and plums. There have been hundreds of bushels of the best of these fruits allowed to go to waste this season simply because the home market of the grower has been overstocked and he has not had the proper facilities, or is ignorant of them, for packing and shipping a long distance to market. Excessive freight rates have also worked against him. A fruit grower in the Leamington district where the annual convention of the Ontario Fruit Growers Association will be held in a week or two, informed us not long since that he allowed bushels of the very finest of pears to rot on the ground simply because he could not get enough to pay for the picking.

Of course it may be said that this is an exceptional year and that the crop of plums and pears is an extra large one. Quite true. But are not farmers being urged to grow more fruit and to take better care of their orchards in order to increase production? This is having its effect, and the output is being increased year by year much faster, we think, than improvement in marketing and shipping fruit is taking place. Considerable has been accomplished

within the past year or two, but much more needs to be done before the grower of the more perishable fruits, such as plums, pears and peaches, will feel safe in increasing his output and making fruit culture more of a business. The grower in the Niagara section may perhaps have reached this stage. But he is favorably situated, having a large home market within a couple of hours journey. Not so with the grower in more remote sections such as Essex. Shut out of the United States market because of the tariff, he is compelled to ship his perishable fruit east two or three hundred miles before he reaches a good-sized market. He is the fellow who needs help and who would be greatly benefited by improved methods of marketing and shipping fruit. But the grower close at hand is also beginning to complain. The Oakville Star, published in the centre of one of our best fruit sections, within 20 miles of Toronto, dealing with this question, says:

"The question with the residents of this great fruit belt, and the fruit-growers of Canada generally, is not how they can produce more fruit, but how they can best dispose of the amount of fruit and vegetables at present produced. Every year there is a glut of the market and this year is particularly marked in that respect. Great quantities of plums, pears and early apples will not be marketed at all. This means a heavy loss to this community and to the fruit-growers of the whole Dominion. And what is sold is sacrificed at an unnecessarily low price. There is consequently loss to the grower in two ways—fruit not sold and the low price. The cost of production remains the same, in fact has increased with the advance of wages, price of implements and nearly every

article. Therefore it looks unwise and will prove unprofitable to produce more fruit until a larger consumption can be found."

This puts the matter in a nutshell. Until there is a better market for our more perishable fruit it does seem unwise to go on urging the farmers to grow more of it.

But how is this thing to be remedied? Is there any way of improving matters so as to assure the grower a reasonable price for his fruit? These are the questions many are asking and we must confess to our inability to answer them satisfactorily. What we do know, however, is that there are great fruit-growing countries, such as California, that every year ship perishable fruit, in and out of season, we were going to say, all over this continent, thousands of miles from the orchards where it was grown. This fruit arrives at its destination neatly and honestly packed, in good condition and well preserved. A great deal of such fruit comes into Ontario before the season opens here, and in the smaller towns in Manitoba and the Territories, California and other fruits are to be had almost in and out of season.

The question then arises, why cannot Ontario fruit be cared for and shipped in the same way? Have the fruit-growers of California some secret process for preserving perishable fruit that we know nothing about? If they have, then special commissioners should be sent there to investigate forthwith. Surely in enlightened Ontario there should be some way of getting over the difficulty and providing ways and means of preserving valuable fruit after it is grown, in a perfect condition until it reaches the consumer even if he lives three thousand miles away. British Columbia has solved it to a large extent, and is much in advance of older Ontario in this regard.

This is the burning question of the day in connection with fruit growing in Ontario, and if every hour of the coming convention at Leamington were given up to discussing ways and means that would lead to definite results, the time will have been well spent. For several years the marketing side of fruit culture has had an important place on the program at this important gathering. We may be blind as to results, but it seems to us that much more might have been accomplished than has been the case by this important gathering of fruit growers. There has been too much talk and not enough action. Resolutions are all well and good, but if they are not acted upon they had better not have been passed. We look for more definite action this year. With an aggressive president, quite in sympathy with the need of some distinctly forward movement in the way of better marketing facilities for fruit, the Leamington convention should be productive of results.

Prof. Robertson, who has been absent in England all summer owing to ill-health, will sail for Canada about Nov. 26th.