

PACKING APPLES.



ALL apple growers who have a few hundred barrels or more of apples to handle should be able to pack their own apples in a proper manner for export. This is all the more important in a season like the present, when apples are so abundant, that buyers can get fine fruit at their own prices. How is it that when winter apples are selling (Oct. 6th) in England at from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per bl., buyers here are only paying about 80 cents per barrel? All the expenses of export are only about \$1.25, and it is plain that the buyer is making more than the grower.

A few hints on the best methods of apple packing will therefore be in place, and may help our growers to get proper remuneration for their goods. Indeed in no other business except apple growing, do people ever think of waiting for somebody to come

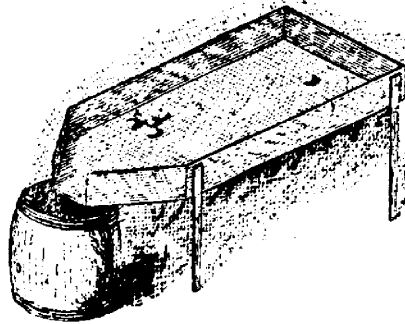


Fig. 1011.—PACKING TABLE FOR APPLES.

along and pack their goods. Why then should the fruit grower let his apples rot in his orchard waiting for some travelling buyer to offer him a mere song. He should on the other hand wake up to his opportunities, learn to pack his own fruit, and put himself in communication with the best markets.

Harvesting.—A common mistake is to leave apples hanging on the trees till the middle of October, by which time a large quantity of the sound fruit will be blown off by the winds, and that remaining will be over ripe. It is better to begin as soon as the apples have their full color, and this begins with some varieties about the 20th of September. Our practice is to gather apples in about the following order, according to their time of maturity; viz., Blenheim, King, Ribstons, Snow, Greening, Cranberry, Golden Russet, Spitzenberg, Baldwin, Roxbury Russet, Spy.

In the case of a large crop of a thousand or more barrels it is best to pack for the most part in the orchard. We do not favor the common practice of making piles on the ground, to be left exposed to rain and sun, and to be picked up again by hand. A packing table can be quickly made, such as is shown in the illustration, Fig. 1011; this is carried from place to place in the orchard, convenient to the trees, and the pickers dump the apples upon it, while the packer proceeds to pack them into the barrels. One good packer with an assistant a part of the time, will put up, and head thirty or forty barrels a day in this way; and keep four or five pickers at work.