

The Canadian Horticulturist

The Leading Horticulturist Magazine in the Dominion.

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TRANSPORTATION OF FRUIT.

Probably no class of the community who may have occasion to use the railroad and transportation companies of the country in the ordinary course of their business with the public, have a greater claim upon these public carriers for consideration and assistance in their efforts to satisfy their customers, than the fruit growers of Ontario. From the very inception of his effort to engage in the production of fruit, the grower is beset on every side with difficulties and obstacles that might well appal the most courageous and energetic. If "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick," under any circumstances it is certainly true in the fruit industry.

After having run the gauntlet of unsuitable soil and atmospheric conditions, and the liability to have had worthless varieties foisted on him by the unscrupulous "tree agent"; after having battled with the myriad fungous diseases and insect pests, and escaped the early and late frosts, he secures a good crop of fruit, the expressman or freight handler in a very short time often reduces the results of his care and efforts to a more or less damaged and demoralized condition. Even should his fruit pass through this ordeal in a fairly satisfactory manner it is liable to be delayed in transit for hours or even days, until finally it reaches its destination in a rotten and worthless condition.

For this so-called special service the patient and long-suffering fruit grower is charged the

highest rates possible. Surely the time is ripe for some relief in this respect. It is to be hoped the presentation of the facts and conditions of this trade to the proper authorities, as has been done, is all that will be required to secure a substantial improvement in the service and in the handling of this rapidly increasing business. A tariff of charges is needed that will commend itself to the public as being at once reasonable and in accordance with the principles of justice and equity. Now our fruit growers have put their hand to the plow they must not turn back.

THE FRUIT INSPECTION ACT.

It is interesting sometimes to "see ourselves as other see us." The United States Consul in Edinburgh reports to his government that the system of fruit inspection adopted in Canada, and subsequently renewed at British ports, has served as a guarantee to British buyers, of Canadian fruit. Canadian apple imports as a result, he says, are gaining a very strong position in Scotch markets, and in some cases displace United States supplies.

Coming from such a source this statement is a strong endorsement of both the wisdom and efficacy of our fruit inspection act. The views of the two British apple buyers expressed in this issue of *The Horticulturist* further emphasize this belief. Already this act has resulted in much good to the Canadian fruit trade. It does not seem unreasonable to expect that, after it has been in operation a little longer and its workings are still better understood on both sides of the Atlantic, its benefits will become even more apparent. As for our cousins to the south it will probably be a long time before they will adopt such a law. Action by individual states will not be effective, and it will be a difficult matter to induce congress to deal with the situation.

Unknown seven years ago in Ontario, the San Jose scale is now one of the worst enemies that the fruit growers have to contend with. When it crossed the Niagara frontier the entomologists, knowing its evil reputation, at once raised the alarm, but the majority of the growers made light of their fears and made no attempt to keep the scale from their orchards. The result is that to-day so serious have been the ravages of the scale, thousands of what would have been fine bearing trees are worthless. Many once valuable orchards are being torn up by the owners. The excellent work of the Ontario department of agriculture in tracing and destroying infected stock sent out by nurseries, appointing inspectors to assist in the control and eradication of the disease, and in meeting part of the cost of spraying material, has undoubtedly been of great value to the fruit growers of the province. It is encouraging to hear that the fruit growers are now thoroughly alive to the seriousness of the situation and that there has been a great increase in the amount of spraying done to check the spread of the scale.