

them are sold, especially in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec; a few cars come into Ontario. These are followed by Bermudas, which are not good keepers, and are off the market by the time our own onions are ready. The strongest competitors we have in our markets are the Spanish onions. These come into direct competition with our onions, both in regard to season and price. There are two varieties which come from Spain, Denias, which are the very large Spanish onion, and which are shipped in crates holding about forty pounds; and Valencias, shipped in cases holding approximately one hundred and twenty-five pounds. The price of Valencias varies from four shillings a case upwards, with perhaps an average price of five to six shillings per case, f.o.b., Liverpool.

Owing to the high duty on onions coming into the United States, (forty cents per bushel, compared to the Canadian duty of thirty per cent. *ad valorem*) the consumption of foreign onions per capita is higher in Canada than it is in the United States, and the high American duty practically prohibits Canadian onions from going into that country.

If it were possible for the growers in the shipping districts to form an association to look after the proper distribution of the crop, so as to properly supply the different markets, it would be a step in the right direction. It would also be of material advantage and profit to themselves in the distribution of their crop. In some of the districts there seems to be a dread of over production. This should not be the case, and the sooner the growers get over that idea the better it will be for them. At present we are not supplying our own markets, but import American onions to the extent of over 78,000 bushels annually over our export trade, and these figures are based on a four years' average, as can be seen by referring to the table on page 2. When in Montreal last fall, in an interview with Mr. O'Shea, the Dominion appraiser of fruits and vegetables, regarding the importation of American onions into our markets, the question was asked, how many cars of American onions come into our markets, and to base his estimates on a five years' average? His reply was that he could not tell exactly, but a conservative estimate was an average of twenty-five cars annually.

In supplying the markets of the several Provinces with Ontario onions, the following was learned through correspondence with brokers and commission merchants in the large markets. The Nova Scotia markets will take about thirty-five car loads, containing 14,000 sacks of seventy-five pounds each. About twenty carloads go into St. John, N.B., and about fifteen into the Province outside of the city. The Province of Quebec will take about twenty-five cars annually; Prince Edward Island about six or seven cars of Ontario onions. In Newfoundland, Canadian onions are not a large factor, the market being divided between American and Spanish grown ones. The large firms there have an extensive trade with Portugal and Spain, sending out cargoes of fish, bringing back in their own vessels large quantities of Spanish onions at a trifling freight cost. Newfoundland imports about \$10,000 worth of onions annually, of which Canada sends about \$1,000 worth. Winnipeg and Manitoba import about