

7.—PACKING.

The fruit should be closely and neatly packed with the stems turned all one way if possible, and so arranged as to completely fill the package without the addition of any excelsior, or paper shavings. If packing material is necessary, only so much should be used as will prevent the fruit from rattling in the case. If the pears have not room to rattle about individually, the package may be considered tight enough, even if by shaking the entire mass may be made to shift slightly in the package.

It is a common practice in Ontario to use one of the narrow sides of the half case as a lid; but in British markets one of the broad sides is removed to expose the fruit. It would therefore seem advisable to adopt the Californian method which is to lay the case flat to be packed, using one of the broad sides as the bottom. This is removed when the fruit is exposed for sale, showing a carefully prepared and regular surface.

8.—PACKAGES.

a. The half case, as used by California shippers, or the variation of it used by Grimsby and Burlington shippers, is most in favour in Great Britain. Some importers go so far as to say that it is the only proper package for Canadian pears. This package, which is commonly made of pine, holds about 20 pounds, net, of fruit. The ends are of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, or thicker, and the sides of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch material. The inside measurements are approximately as follows: $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2} \times 18\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

b. A case holding a number of trays, each divided into compartments similar to those in an egg-case, is sometimes used for exporting very high grade fruit. If this case is used, special care should be taken to see that the fruit is made to fit the compartments snugly. This may be done by the use of small quantities of paper shavings, or of ample wrappers for the fruit. If this is not done, the pears will be more or less injured, and even blackened, by rattling about in the compartments.

c. A box holding about 40 pounds, net, of fruit is sometimes used with success, but this package should be adopted only when the pears have unusual firmness and carrying quality. If tender pears are shipped in a large package the weight is too much for the bottom layers, and the difficulty of cooling is greatly increased. It need hardly be said that pears should never be exported in barrels.

All pear cases should be protected by half-inch strips of wood running across the ends, so that when the cases are piled one above another the weight of the upper ones will be borne by these strips and not allowed to rest upon the fruit of the lower packages. These protecting strips also serve the purpose of separating the packages sufficiently to allow a circulation of air about them.

9.—MARKING.

As the object of marking a package is to advertise the kind, quality and origin of the goods, these three facts should be indicated clearly, neatly and prominently. The marks on a package should be as few and distinct as possible. They should appear on both ends of the pear case, and should indicate:

1. The grade and variety of the fruit, as for example, 'No. 1 Bartlett Pears.'
2. The name and address of the shipper, as for example, 'J. C. Thomas, Niagara.'
3. The country, 'Canada.'

With the exception of the word 'Canada,' the Fruit Marks Act, 1901, requires every closed package to be marked as above. In addition, owners would do well to give each packer a number, which will appear on every package put up by him, thus serving to identify his work. (See Appendix IV.)