So it appears that old Ben still has his friends.

BEN DAVIS FOR STOCK.

"I HAVE great confidence in Ben Davis for top grafting upon," said Mr. Shourds. "A Spy tree is apt to split at the crotch, but Ben Davis is tough and does not break down; besides Spy, top grafted on Ben Davis, bears fairly early. I have an instance where I top grafted Spy on the branches of a Ben Davis at three years after planting, and at seven years it began fruiting. I am planting twenty acres to Ben Davis trees, and if I want Spy I will have first-class stock upon which to top graft it."

PHOENIX.

THIS apple is grown to a considerable extent in Northumberland County, and some growers value it highly. Mr. Solomon, of Brighton, who was packing at Butler's storage, said he found it quite as productive as Baldwin, as good a shipper and seller; but Mr. C. W. Crandall, of Colborne, thought it inferior to Baldwin, and all owned it was not as good a keeper, and should be shipped before January or it would discolor. The samples given us on January 20th however, were still bright in color and in excellent condition.

SIZE OF BOXES FOR FRUIT.

WE are frequently asked to give the proper size for the apple and pear box for Ontario; but really the question is not very easy of answer, so many have been the changes. We believe, however, that the apple box adopted for 1903 by our meeting at Walkerton is the most desirable in size, and the one most likely to become the standard for Ontario, and we hope for Canada. This box is 9 inches deep, 12 inches wide, and 18 inches long, inside measurement.

It is practically the California pear box, with capacity for forty pounds of pears. Now in the British market the 40 pound or quarter barrel apple boxes are most in demand, and if we use a larger one, we ship at a loss. This box is suitable for both pears and apples; but for tender varieties such as Bartlett, one 5 x 12 x 18 inside would be better, because only taking two layers of fruit; it would have a capacity of about twenty-five pounds.

FOR CHEERIES, we use the nine pound grape basket, but some have tried the California pear box with success. It measures inside, length 16½ inches, width 10⅜ inches, depth 2½ inches. This box takes two layers of cherries, the one layer so placed against the top that no stems show when opened. The capacity is ten pounds.

FOR PEACHES, the California people use a similar box to the pear box described above, but depth inside about 4½ inches; and capacity twenty-two pounds.

MEASUREMENTS OF APPLE BOX. — Mr. George E. Fisher, of Burlington, who was a member of our committee on boxes at Walkerton, has been figuring out the contents of our proposed box, and says that although in number of cubic inches it is a little too large to be equal ¼ of our apple barrel, yet in actual trial, owing to packing material and number of spaces about the sides, it is about as near correct as possible, and Burlington growers are adopting the size recommended above. He figures it out thus:

"A standard barrels contains 96 quarts or 6655 inches; 9 × 12 × 18 = 1944 inches; 6655 ÷ 1944 = 3.423 or 3 2/5 boxes to barrel; ¼ of 6655 = 1664 or ¼ barrel; 18 × 12 = 216; 1664 ÷ 216 = 7.7 inches or less than 8 inches depth. Therefore 18 × 12 × 7.7 = 1664 or ¼ barrel by measure. Four boxes 18 × 12 × 8 does not fill a barrel because of the greater number of large spaces about the sides of the box. The size of the required box cannot be determined by figures, but must be ascertained by actual trial. 3 and 2/5 boxes, 9 x 12 x 18 are equal to a barrel in measure, but it does not work out that way, and our boxes are ordered 9 x 12 x 18 as recommended by the Walkerton meeting.