

Editorial Notes and Comments

SELLING FRUIT AT POINT OF SHIPMENT.

IT is high time for the fruit growers of Ontario to make a change in their methods of selling fruit. No more reckless system could be thought of than the present one, where thousands of growers blindly ship their fruit to consignees in our chief cities without the least idea whether those markets need the shipments. Our country is large enough to take all our fruit at paying prices were it properly distributed, but when it is shipped in the present reckless fashion it is no wonder that first one centre is glutted and then another. Besides, the present system gives the owner of the fruit no word as to the price, and he simply must accept whatever people choose to give him. Such a method of sale would not be tolerated one moment in the grocery trade, or in the hardware business. And why must we give away our fruit to any one who will pay the freight and the commission, and perhaps enough over to pay for the baskets and the picking.

COLD STORAGE FOR FRUIT GROWERS.

THE solution of the question of selling our fruit by contract is undoubtedly in the cold storage. So long as our fruit must be sold within twenty-four hours after it is gathered, we have no alternative—we must ship—and we must accept whatever pittance it may bring. But given an ample refrigerating warehouse at central shipping points, where the fruit grower may have his perishable fruit held for a week or two if necessary for a proper sale, and we believe there would be a complete change in our business and proper returns for our investments.

SELLING BERRIES ON THE TRACK.

MR. J. C. EVANS, of Harlem, Mo., is advocating the selling of fruit by contract. At a recent meeting of the fruit growers of his state, he said:

"All fruit growers have, at some stage of the game, to learn a lesson. Many of us have learned that lesson long ago. It is one thing to grow fruit; another thing to get rid of it right. Some four years ago, at a convention of fruit growers from several different states, the question of selling direct at the growers' shipping point was sprung. Those gentlemen said, 'You never can do it.' One said it could be done. Now what do we see at this meeting? At such and such a place the growers sold their berries on the track. Four-fifths of the berries this year in Arkansas and South Missouri were sold on the track. Of the 200 cars of fruit from our station not a car was consigned. The time is nearly at hand when no fruit will be consigned to any commission man. It will all be sold on the track. The time is coming when a man who grows a car load of cattle or hogs will have the buyer go there and buy them outright. The day of the live stock commission man is past. The day is coming when all farm produce will be sold on the track. We should encourage the approach of that day. Tell the buyer your fruit or stock is for sale, but it must be sold before a wheel turns."

THERMAL EFFECTS OF SOIL CULTIVATION.

THE benefits of cultivation of the soil are far more extended than is usually supposed. Primarily the gardener hoes his garden simply to kill the weeds, thinking what a curse they are, causing him such constant labor. Recently it has been plainly