

by the operations of the inspectors working under the Fruit Marks Act has been such that the public may well believe that before the act went into effect honest packing was the exception rather than the rule. It is to be hoped that the recent police court experiences of Ontario shippers to this market, of which the above mentioned case is a sample, will have the effect of stopping the dishonest practices which, if continued, can only have the one effect of driving Ontario out of this market altogether."

THE FRUIT PROSPECTS.

It is a little early to say much about the fruit crop of 1904, but it is a question of such importance to fruit growers that we welcome even the probabilities. The winter has been one of such universal severity that the peach and sweet cherry buds in even the most favored parts of the province have been very severely thinned, and in the less favored places almost entirely destroyed. In our own orchards we find from one-third to one-half the peach buds black at heart when cut open transversely; but, unless the injury is more extended than this would indicate, a sufficient number are still alive to secure a good peach crop. If the reports are true that New York and Michigan peach buds are destroyed, then we have a fair prospect for good prices in 1904.

Pears and plums are injured in sections farther north, and even apples will be most severely tested in their most northerly limits.

Mr. J. S. Mitchell, Clarksburg, near Collingwood, writes:

"Peach buds seem to be badly hurt. All other fruits are all right and prospects good. We have had no thaw this winter. Most ice in Georgian Bay in forty years, and deepest snow I ever saw. Great damage done by mice, especially in uncultivated or grass orchards."

Mr. Harold Jones, of Maitland, near Brockville, writes:

"It is too early in the season to state definitely the condition of the fruit trees in this section. The long continued cold weather and deeply frozen ground has caused some shrivelling of twigs and buds on the apple trees, but I cannot see any serious injury as yet.

"Pears and plums will likely suffer serious injury, as much of the wood is darkened, and cherries are in an uncertain condition.

"The thermometer in January registered as low as 32 and 40 degrees below zero, and we have had steady cold with very few days above zero since January last."

Mr. W. H. Bunting, of St. Catharines, writes:

"It is generally conceded that peach buds are pretty well destroyed, although not entirely so. A great many of the older trees are also badly frozen, and in some cases will not in all probability recover. It is quite too early to discover whether root killing has obtained to any degree, but from the fact that we have had a great deal of severe weather, with little snow covering the ground during portions of the winter, this trouble may be in evidence later on. Under favorable circumstances we could hardly

expect a repetition of last season's heavy crop of fruit this year. I would therefore not be surprised if the coming season should be marked by a very great decrease in the production of our tender fruits."

CANADIAN APPLES IN FRANCE.

That only the finest qualities of firm fruit will bring profitable returns when exported to Europe is again made manifest. Writing to Mr. W. A. MacKinnon, chief of the Fruit Division, Ottawa, M. W. Richeux, of the firm of Champagne Freres, Limited, Paris, says: "In August and September last we had occasion to write you and take advantage of your kindness to obtain information about the apple business in your country, and also about the line of steamers from Canada to France. As was foreseen, and for the first time, this year Canadian and American apples have come to France in important quantities, on account of the French crop being almost a complete failure, and we are glad to say that the best goods have obtained satisfactory prices, although the market is not so very good at present. We are, however, of opinion that it will soon recover, and that prices will rise again, but what we want in France are the best qualities and hard and strong apples that will arrive in good condition. Any arriving in somewhat doubtful condition will sell very much lower. We have started this business ourselves, and hope to receive some Canadian apples and obtain satisfactory results."

THE NORTH OF IRELAND MARKET.

Once again the attention of the Fruit Division, Ottawa, has been called to the excellent market that exists in the north of Ireland for first-class Canadian fruit and other food products. This time it is Mr. R. Andrews, 36 Clifton Park avenue, Belfast, who mentions the fact that this market is not properly cultivated by Canadian shippers, and who desires to be put in communication with some of these gentlemen. He is in a position to do general commission trade, and would undertake agency for Canadian manufacturers as well as produce in the north of Ireland, where he has good connections.

A similar request has also been received from Albert Cabaret, 77 Bd. Gouvion, St. Cyr, Paris, France. Mr. Cabaret is prepared to handle all lines of Canadian goods, including fruit, of which considerable quantities have been exported to France this season.

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