

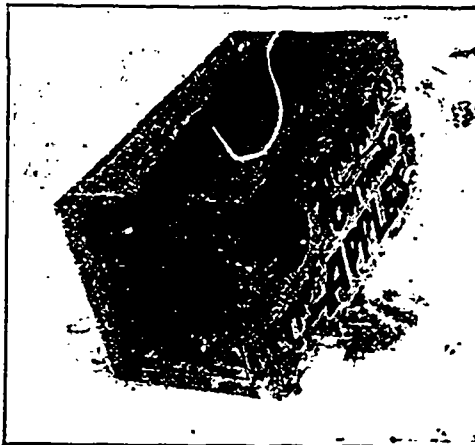
## A New Style Apple Box

Alexander C. Biggs, Burlington, Ont.

As we have been using an apple box for several years with very good success and of an entirely different construction from those in general use, I thought perhaps it might interest your readers to know something about them. Some years ago when that good, sensible idea of packing apples in boxes was introduced and encouraged in this country the writer was very much impressed with the many good points in its favor, and immediately adopted the plan of packing No. 1 quality in this package and the No. 2 quality in barrels.

After a few seasons' use I found that we had considerable breakage in these boxes through the handling of them in transportation, and as a consequence, loss en route. This was caused partially by imperfect end boards and the outward pressure from the bulge, and also the rough handling to which they are subjected in forwarding; thus the suggestion came to improve the package, and this we have done in a very simple manner, which I shall explain, but before doing so I will say that the inside measurement of our box is 11 inches wide, 10 inches deep and 20 inches long, and contains a government standard bushel. The change of the construction relates chiefly to the ends of the boxes, which instead of being the ordinary size, we make them 11x12 inches, the grain running lengthwise and quite opposite to the ordinary box. We nail our sides, which are 11½ inches wide, lengthwise on the ends, allowing them to project one-quarter inch beyond the sides; these should be nailed firmly with at least six or seven stout box nails (1¼-inch coated) at each corner. The

tops and bottoms are the same, practically the same size as the inside measurement of the box, 11x20 inches, but we make them about one-eighth inch shorter and narrower, so that they will drop inside the four walls easily. (I am speaking now of sea-



The Biggs Apple Box—End View, Width 11 in

soned stock.) The cleats are 1½x5x10½ inches and we nail one of these on each end board, across the grain of the wood, before nailing on the sides, so that when you have nailed your sides your box is ready for packing, with the exception of dropping in your top or bottom, which will rest on the cleats, these we do not nail, as the fruit in the package holds them firm on the inside

and the cleats on the outside, thus allowing perfect freedom for the bulge and also contraction as required by the shrinking of the fruit. The packing of the fruit is arranged with just the same as in any ordinary box with this exception, that the ordinary box requires very exact packing, since this package one-quarter inch may be permitted without any doubt of a tight pack for the simple reason that the cover is wedged in the four walls of the box and is applied and pressed direct to the fruit, using a corrugated cap between, and when the pressure on the two remaining cleats are nailed across the ends either on the one-half or five-eighths inch side, as the fruit may require, this box is then complete.

The utility points of this package are as follows: Strength and Durability—This is perhaps the chief requirement in any fruit package, and will necessitate one to be sufficiently strong to withstand the rough handling to which they are usually subjected in the course of transportation. The apple case has been thoroughly tested; upon examination of its firm and simple construction it will readily be conceded to have the strength and durability that will stand the strain or test. Protection of Bulges—To all growers and packers accustomed to the usual box for shipping the first-class fruit the protection of this bulging portion of package is highly important, for the simple reason that no matter how carefully the fruit may be packed, how snugly the case may be put together unless this part be protected from the weight of the other packages when piled during transportation the fruit inside will be more or less bruised and destroyed. The bulge is securely protected in our package. Protection of cleats—The cleats used in this case, which are nailed across the ends

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