

"Every persons who offers or exposes for sale, or who packs for exportation, apples by the barrel, otherwise than in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this section shall be liable to a penalty of 25 cents for each barrel of apples so offered or exposed for sale or packed."

Discussed Across the Line.

During 1897-98 the United States National Fruit Growers' Association, and the National League of Commission Merchants, having experienced similar trouble with the varying sizes of their barrels, had the matter up for discussion and finally called a convention to consider the question of a standard barrel, and ultimately agreed on a barrel of the following dimensions: head, 17 1-8 inches in diameter, length of stave, 28½ inches, bulge not less than 64 inches outside measurement, —the Minneapolis flour barrel,—and binding themselves not to buy apples, potatoes, etc., put up in barrels of any other dimensions. Following this action the state of New York legislated on the subject as follows: "A barrel of pears, quinces, or potatoes, shall represent a quantity equal to 100 quarts of grain, or dry measure. A barrel of apples shall be of the following dimensions: head diameter 17 1-8 inches; length of stave, 28½ inches, outside measurement. Every person buying or selling apples, pears, quinces or potatoes in this state by the barrel, shall be understood as referring to the quantity or size of the barrel specified in this section, but when potatoes are sold by weight, the quantity constituting a barrel shall be 174 pounds." I understand the New England states are using a barrel of similar dimension. The state of New York and the New England states are

Our Great Competitors

in the markets of Great Britain and the West Indies for our products,

apples and potatoes; consequently, when we learned of their action, the municipal council of Kinks, the boards of trade of Kings county and Kentville, in a joint address to the Hon. S. A. Fisher, minister of agriculture, at Kentville in February, 1899, the Hon. Dr. Borden being present, asked for a standard Canadian barrel of similar dimensions. The legislature of last session, both as regards the capacity of the barrel, and the scope of its application is inadequate. In neither respect does it meet the requirements of trade; first, because it is unjust to the Canadian producers, compelling them to sell a larger quantity for the same price (because the quotation is generally by the barrel) as their competitors receive for a less quantity—103 Canadian quarts as against 100 United States quarts, and, second, because it leaves other fruits and roots, notably potatoes, without determining the weight constituting a barrel.

What is obviously and, it seems to me, imperatively wanted, is a standard barrel of

A Fixed Specific Capacity

for apples, pears, potatoes and such products, similar to the barrel that has been adopted in the United States —the Minneapolis flour barrel. We are competitors with them, with similar products in the same markets, and the necessity for a barrel of similar dimensions is clearly apparent. For instance, Kings county alone exports annually from 250,000 to 300,000 barrels of apples to Great Britain and from 75,000 to 100,000 barrels of potatoes to Cuba. The barrel that comes into force on July 1, next, has a much larger capacity than the Nova Scotia barrel that has hitherto been in use; and if