

the good grain. In Vol. II, page 196

A GOOD SORTING TABLE

was described and illustrated, and one which we have found to serve a most excellent purpose in lessening the tedious work of fruit packing.

A writer in *Popular Gardening* describes another one which has some advantages, especially that one of a provision for emptying the fruit into the bottom of the barrel without the least bruise, a difficulty which has to be overcome, when using the other packing table, by means of a basket.

In fig. 66 we copy the engraving of this fruit sorter, and here quote the writer's description of it:—

The support consists of four legs *b, b* crossing each other X shape, and held together at the middle by a wooden or iron pin. To the upper ends of these supports are attached

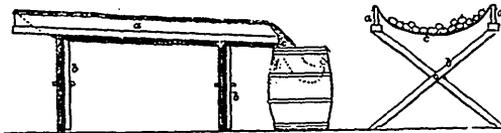


FIG. 66.—CONVENIENT FRUIT SORTER.

two light two-by-three bed pieces, extending lengthwise, each supporting a side-board *a* of inch stuff, four inches wide, with a similar piece across the back also.

The bottom, *c*, of the sorter is made of canvas, this being well tacked at the upper edge on the side and end pieces, with slack enough to form a trough three to five inches deep and hanging free from the sides, interiorly. The cross section view gives the right idea as to its form when ready for use. This canvas, it should be added, extends forward some two or more feet longer than the frame, for reaching down into the packing barrel, as shown by the dotted lines.

In using it, the extreme end of the canvas in the barrel is held up by an iron hook, which is attached over the rim of the barrel, thus forming a pocket into which the first fruit in the barrel falls, without injury; then when this pocket is full the hook is freed, and it is gently lowered to the bottom of the barrel and emptied. The front end of the sorter is of a height to allow of a barrel being set underneath, and the other is three inches higher to admit of the fruit being easily moved along the canvas as it is being graded. If more pitch is desired, this is secured by further tilting up the back end of the sorter. When not in use, this sorter can be compactly folded up by loosening the end pieces.

AN EXCELLENT APPLE-PACKER.

One of the chief troubles facing the farmer who wants to pack his own apples is in the heading up of the barrels. To stamp the heads in place with the feet is no pleasant operation, a mode at first tried by the writer, but gladly abandoned when the much more convenient

method of using a lever press, such as is shown in fig. 67, was suggested by a friend. This latter is so simple in construction that any one can make it after seeing our engraving, and it needs no further description. Where there are only a few barrels to head, this press will answer all purposes, but as it cannot be handled to advantage by a single person, the screw press was found to be much more economical in a large orchard. It was used by apple packers for a long time, but has latterly been superseded by the apple packer (fig. 68), which we find to be the most convenient and speedy of any. This latter we