

There is very little difficulty in making up car lots at any time, for each man need only furnish one-eighth of the lot, and if there is anything to be made, we get it.

And now regarding the outlook for our apples this fall. We have numerous circulars from apple receivers. For example, Jas. Lindsay & Son write as follows:

As the apple season is now about to begin, we beg to advise you that the prospects with us are as follows: Green fruit, for cooking purposes, is very abundant, especially the English crop, also the continental crops are advised to be very heavy, and as the shipments from this quarter mostly consist of cooking apples of a green nature, then we advise you that in the early part of the season green fruit will not do to ship from your district, as it would have to contend with a market that was heavily supplied of the kinds mentioned above, shipped from England and the Continent. The rates from these places being much lower than the rates from yours to ours it would only cause a loss to you to send fruit of this grade. The only kinds that will pay to ship in the early season are the colored varieties, such as Kings, Spitz, Spys, Baldwins, Vanderveers, Wagners, Blush, good clear sound Snow's, and any other good colored variety of a good carrying quality. It is also our opinion that it will not do to ship common qualities this year. The expenses are too heavy, and before that such could be cleared there will be nothing left for the goods, should they even manage to clear expense, which would be doubtful.

No doubt this gives us a good idea of the condition of things in Great Britain; but as regards the crop of this Continent we think it is an over-estimate to say that it will exceed that of 1896. Possibly the gross results may equal 1896, but the quantity of No. 1 stock will be much less than a general survey of the orchards would indicate.

In the first place, from one-third to one-half of our fruit will be unfit for export from the ravages of codling moth and apple worm. These insects grow more troublesome every year, and no fruit infested with them should be sent forward.

In the second place, a large percentage of the clean, perfect fruit will be too small to export. No apple of such kinds as King, Greening, Baldwin, etc., which is below 2½ inches in diameter should ever be put up for this purpose; and if this rule be applied,

as indeed it should be, there will be plenty of room in the old world for all our fruit. It would be a good law which would compel every packer or shipper to stamp on the outside of each package the minimum diameter of the fruit inside, for this would help buyers to buy with confidence.

Another outcome of the low prices and consequent dissatisfaction on the part of the grower is the Packing Company, a business conducted after the model of the Packing Companies of California. Van Duzé & Griffith, Grimsby, and E. D. Smith, Winona, are examples of this method. Fruit is purchased by grades, to facilitate which orange graders have been imported from Ohio. The price offered varies according to the grade, which is soon settled when the fruit has passed through the machine. Suppose, for example, ten baskets of peaches are brought in by John Smith, who is to receive 60c. for A1, 40c. for No. 1, and 20c. for No. 2; the grader turns out—

3 A1 at 60c. \$1.80

4 No. 1 at 40c. 1.60

3 No. 2 at 20c. 60

Or a total of \$4.00 for the ten baskets.

John Smith is perfectly satisfied with the result, but goes home inwardly resolved that in future he will take care to grow no more No. 2 peaches, and if possible to grow all A1; a lesson he would never learn if he had sold the whole in bulk at perhaps 30c. a basket.

This means that John Smith in future will cut out or top graft over all poor varieties of fruit in his orchard, give better cultivation and manure, prune and thin, until he reaches an ideal product, which will command the highest price in any market in the world.

Already our efforts in the direction of improved packing are being appreciated abroad. An English trade paper says:

We are particularly pleased to testify to the quality of the Canadian fruits. They are far