

STANDARD SIZES OF FRUIT PACKAGES.

A BILL introduced by Mr. Penny to define the sizes of small-fruit packages was given its first reading in the House of Commons on April 13th. The object is to arrive at a standard measure of quart, pint and half-pint baskets, used in buying and selling strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, currants, and other small fruits. The bill demands that the standard quart when even full shall contain sixty-seven cubic inches. The standard quart basket shall be $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches on each side at the top, and $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches on each side at the bottom, and $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches deep. The standard pint basket shall be oblong, and the inside measurement at the top shall be $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches by $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches, and at the bottom $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and it shall be $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. The dimensions of half-pint baskets are also defined as $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches on each side at the top, and $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches on each side at the bottom, by $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep, all inside measurements. The Bill also enacts that makers of baskets of less size or capacity, shall mark the word "short" on the outside in letters not less than one-half inch in height. The penalty for selling "short" baskets of fruit not so marked will, upon summary conviction, be a fine of not less than five dollars and not more than twenty-five dollars. The Act is not to come into force until May 1st, 1900.

In order to arrive at the probable effect of such an Act, we interviewed a number of fruit dealers who claim that such a provision, if it can be properly carried out, will do away with much dissatisfaction to both dealers and consumers, as many of the so-called twelve-quart baskets contain not more than from ten to eleven quarts, and smaller packages in the same proportion. While the dealers interviewed could see considerable difficulty in having such a regulation carried out, they were of opinion that it is just what is needed, especially with Canadian fruit. The greatest difficulty, however, was observed in the way such regulations would effect foreign fruit, such as strawberries, of which we get great quantities during the early season, as the cases from the various States differ widely in form if not size. It is claimed that there is little to complain of in the matter of shortage in the American cases—in fact, far less than in Canadian—but as the Bill demands cases of certain dimensions, an effort to compel the use of a regular form of box in place of those of a different form now in use for the shipment of fruit from foreign countries, and which are already large enough, would be to little purpose and well-nigh impossible of enforcement without seriously interfering with the trade.—*Farmers' Advocate*.

ORIGIN OF THE CATAWBA—It is a fact that the Catawba grape was found wild in the woods of Buncombe county, N.C., about ten miles southeast of Asheville. In 1807 Senator Davey, who lived on the Catawba river, transplanted some of the vines to his farm, and some time between that year and 1816 brought cuttings of his vines to Wash-

ington and gave them to some friends in Maryland. The Scholl vine undoubtedly came from these cuttings. American horticulturists are agreed in the opinion that the Catawba is purely a native grape, without the slightest admixture from European kinds.—N. Y. Trade Bul.