

### GOOD MARKETS AT HOME IF ONLY ACCESSIBLE

**I**T is astonishing what quantities of fruit can be sold right at home, in our own Ontario, if only some scheme of easier distribution were in operation. Our province is full of villages where no fruit is offered, and yet where not only the villages, but the farmers about, would be most eager to purchase it. May we not hope that the extension of the electric trolley, and perhaps the automobile freight wagon will by and by help us to reach all these country sections and wonderfully help the commercial fruit grower to dispose of his fruit crop to advantage, without the great risk of loss attending distant shipments.

"I have a special method of my own of selling my Red Astrachans," said Mr. Willoughby, of Beamsville; "I have an acquaintance with the retail trade in some of the northern towns, and I send my teams direct to the stores with them, and get the very best price for them, with no expenses for freight and commission to be subtracted. In the year 1896 for example, I sold 1,000 baskets of Astrachan apples in this way, a large part of which averaged me 50 cents a basket, and that is better than you can do by exporting them."

### CHANCES FOR EXPORT OF FRUIT

**M**R. JOSEPH CHEAL, F. R. H. S., of Crawley, Sussex, England, a horticultural author and practical expert in gardening and fruit growing, called on us the 2nd of July. He expressed himself as particularly interested in the conditions for commercial fruit growing afforded by our country. Unfortunately for English fruit growers, much better rates were allowed for carriage of Canadian fruit, on the English railways, than for that which is home grown, but in spite of this discouragement there are many large commercial orchards in Great Britain. The present sea-

son is a most depressing one to the English fruit growers, for most unfavorable weather has prevailed, and supplies of apples, pears and plums will be very short.

Mr. Alexander McNeill, of Ottawa, who came in company with Mr. Cheal, reports failures of our fruit crop in several important parts of Ontario. There are scarcely any peaches in Essex, for the orchards were all cleaned out in the winter of 1898, and the newly set trees are not yet in bearing. Thousands of acres however, are being planted to peaches in Essex, so that in a year or two there will be immense quantities produced. The apple is very poor in quality in many parts of Northern Ontario, owing to prevalence of apple scab, which has been developed by excessive wet weather. Both leaves and fruit are blackened by this fungus in some places.

Mr. C. W. VanDuzer said, "I doubt the wisdom of trying to export fruit under the present conditions of transportation; the risk of loss is too great as things are, and I think I can do best at home."

"The Dominion Government," said Mr. McKinnon, "should buy fruit for experimental shipments, and have a packing house where the grading and packing should be done after the most approved fashion, and the work should be carried on until the most complete success is attained. If the Department of Agriculture, with all its means and influence, is afraid to undertake the risk, how can private shippers be expected to enter upon this business. I should like to know, said he, how it is that the temperature is not more quickly brought down in cold storage after the steamer leaves port. One of the thermographs showed that it was three days after sailing before the temperature was reduced to 40° F.!"

"Well," said Alex. McNeill, "this is work which I, as acting chief of the fruit division, will undertake to look after this