

stop to such rascally deception and downright robbery of the buyers who pay the price of good fruit according to the facings of the barrels."

If this were the only instance of fraudulent packing of apples or any other fruit, the matter might be overlooked, but when so many instances occur it is time that some decided action were taken to prevent such dishonest practices. Surely the honest fruit grower, who puts the same kind of apples on the top of the barrel as are to be found in the bottom, will rise up in his wrath and demand that the Government, or somebody whose duty it is to protect the rights of others, will take immediate steps to prevent such fraudulent packing. His interests will be jeopardized, as well as those of the fruit dealer, if such dishonest practices are continued. If the fraudulent packing of fruit would react directly against the fruit-grower or person who did the dishonest packing, the practice would soon be discontinued, but when it reacts against the whole fruit growing industry of this country, the effects are very serious indeed. The honest fruit-packer suffers with the one who practises the dishonesty, and the whole trade is brought into disrepute. It is only just to state that fraudulent packing, especially of apples, is more prevalent this year than last. This is, perhaps, due to the poorness of this year's crop. There is a stronger temptation, when "culls" are plentiful, to practise deceit in packing than when good apples are plentiful. But this does not lessen the extent of the crime in any way, and the results are just as injurious when practised in a bad year as in a good year.

As a remedy against further practices of this kind we would suggest that a system of branding be enforced similar to that now practised in connection with the cheese and butter trade, and that each fruit grower be compelled to brand his own name, or some registered number by which he could be identified, upon every barrel or package of fruit shipped by him. Such a regulation, if properly enforced, would give the honest dealer a chance, and would prevent the occurrence of such practices as we see reported. It would also strengthen our position in the British markets, and if it were known abroad that no deceit could be practised in Canada in connection with the packing of fruit, the old country dealer would feel that he could rely upon the quality of Canadian fruit supply just as he does upon Canadian dairy products. We would commend this matter to the careful consideration of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, which holds its annual convention this week.

Heavy Losses in the Apple Trade.

Heavy losses are reported from shipments of Canadian apples this year. These losses are caused by the very poor keeping qualities of the winter fruit and its arrival on the other side in a slack and otherwise poor condition. Even some of the best keeping varieties are reported to be in a very bad condition when they arrive in England. Shippers on this side who have consigned fruit have suffered very severely. Those who were able to sell outright on this side are more fortunate, though the loss which the British dealer will undoubtedly sustain must react upon the fruit trade here in the future. Cases are mentioned where the barrels were wet on the outside from the slack fruit inside before leaving Montreal. If so, what must their condition be when landed on the other side?

This bad condition of the fruit is very unusual, and is said to be caused by the fruit ripening too quickly in the fall. In that case, no one is to blame, and it is very unfortunate that these losses should occur at a time when special efforts are being made to develop our export trade in fruits. The British dealer is hopeful, however, and seems inclined to believe that the real good quality is yet to go forward. It is to be hoped that his surmise is correct. A fine quality of apples will command anywhere from \$5 to \$7 per barrel in England, just now, according to the very latest cable reports,

and it would help our fruit trade very much indeed if a large share of the best fruit is yet to go forward.

Fruit Growers' Convention.

The annual convention of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association will take place at Waterloo on Wednesday and Thursday of this week, and we have pleasure in placing on the front cover of FARMING an excellent photograph of its chief executive officer, Mr. L. Woolverton, M.A., Grimsby, Ont. As editor of *The Canadian Horticulturist* and as secretary of the Fruit Growers' Association, Mr. Woolverton is well known to every Canadian fruit grower, and has rendered valuable service in promoting better methods in the shipping and preparation of fruit for exportation. During the past season he was the acting agent under the direction of the Dominion Department of Agriculture in preparing the experimental shipments of fruit sent to Great Britain. The returns from these shipments, which have already been published in FARMING, show that good service was rendered in this connection.

The meeting this week will no doubt be one of the most important which the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association has ever held. Many important matters affecting the future development of our export fruit trade should come up for discussion. Plans should be well laid for next year's operations. Something should be done to prevent the fraudulent practices, alluded to elsewhere, in connection with the dishonest packing of fruit. Some system should be evolved that will facilitate the better distribution of fruit among Canadian cities and towns than is possible under present arrangements. Laws regulating the exterminating of fruit pests should be fully considered, and practical information supplied our legislators in order that they may be able to legislate to the very best advantage. In fact there are so many important matters affecting the future of the fruit industry in Canada which need to be considered and acted upon that those in attendance at the convention should be able to spend their time very profitably.

In FARMING, for Nov. 30th, we gave a short outline of the working of the fruit exchanges in British Columbia. This is something which we would like to see discussed by our fruit growers. Fruit exchanges may or may not be workable under our conditions; but if they can be successfully operated in a western province, we see no reason why similar exchanges could not be successfully carried on here. We wish the present convention every success, and will endeavor to give as full a report as possible in our next week's issue.

Canadian Trade in South Africa.

Another probable outlet for Canadian trade is said to be South Africa. Mr. G. H. Flint, of Montreal, who has recently visited the British and German colonies there and the Transvaal, takes a most hopeful view of Canada's commercial prospects in South Africa. The United States does a considerable trade, but Canadian and British business methods are more acceptable. The colonists do not like the American plan of drawing at sight on purchases. Sight drafts go by the mail steamers and reach their destination before the goods arrive by the slow-going freight steamers. British and Canadian traders show their faith by delivering goods before demanding payment. Mr. Flint believes there is a good opening in South Africa for Canadian trade in grain, cheese, butter, and such machinery as is made in Canada. It is almost impossible to get first-class butter or cheese in the country, and eggs are scarce and dear. The price of eggs in Cape Town at the time of Mr. Flint's visit was about 2s. per dozen, but this was considered to be very low, the average rate being about 3s.

Though it may be possible to work up a good trade in Canadian machinery and grain, we are somewhat sceptical about the wisdom of sending our cheese and butter so far, especially when they would have to endure the extreme heat of the

equator while *en transit*. It is, however, quite possible to fit up cold storage compartments in vessels in which perishable products could be preserved under these unfavorable conditions, but we hardly think the venture would pay. Besides, that country is nearer Australia and New Zealand, from which countries dairy products could be supplied to the Cape colonies much easier. It will be much better to confine our efforts, at least as far as perishable food products are concerned, to markets near at hand, in which there is lots of room for further development.

NOTES AND IDEAS.

There have been some complaints about the quality of the flour made from Ontario wheat this year. Considerable of the white wheat was sprouted, which impaired the strength of the flour. The difficulty has been overcome by mixing spring wheat with the sprouted wheat.

A platform scale has been put up at the Iowa experimental station at Ames, upon which a crib will be erected and filled with corn, and permitted to remain there until next summer. It will be weighed at stated periods to determine the shrinkage. The entire scale and crib is built above the ground, the frame of the scale being of steel.

The export of wheat from Ontario this season has been larger than for many years. There is yet reported to be a large quantity of wheat in farmers' hands. Farmers marketed the grain very freely when the roads were good. The roads have been bad lately, and the quantity being marketed is small. It is probable that as soon as the roads improve the balance of the wheat in the farmers' hands will come forward more liberally.

Trade returns show that the export trade in poultry by Canadian shippers has been larger this year than ever before. Large shipments of poultry have been sent to Great Britain for the Christmas trade, and the prospects for good profits to the shippers are very promising. If the shipments meet with the success expected it is probable that the cold storage arrangements may be utilized for shipments of poultry next summer.

Among the bills to be presented to the Legislature this session are two by the Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, which will be of special interest to agriculturists. One will ask for legislation to prevent gambling at agricultural and other fairs, and the other to prevent the spread of disease among fruit trees. The need of legislation in reference to gambling will be admitted by everyone. There is too much of the gambling element at the fall fairs, and unless some means are taken to counteract this growing evil many of our local fairs had better not do business.

The Toronto Pure Food Show has come and gone. It cannot be said to have been a huge success as far as the number of visitors are concerned. The exhibits were, however, elegantly arranged, and exhibitors went to considerable expense in making fine displays. The failure was in the small attendance of visitors. The show in itself was well worth seeing, and no doubt if it becomes an annual affair there will be larger numbers of visitors next year. Among the interesting features were the cooking lectures. These were practical and instructive. If the same line of instruction were given at some of the local fairs and meetings in the country much good would be accomplished.

Mr. F. D. Awde, Cheapside, Ont., encloses one dollar for a new subscriber, and says:

"I am much pleased with FARMING as a weekly. The market review and forecast is a splendid feature of the paper, so also are the monthly lists of breeders; in fact, the paper gets better all the time."