

GRADING FRUIT.



THE importance of carefully grading our fruit for market can hardly be over-estimated. One shipper, sending his pears without grading, got low prices, and on inquiring the reason, he was told that they were all seconds, and the price returned was good for that class. The fact was, he had sent his firsts and seconds mixed together, in the same package, and the whole lot sold as second class.

The writer has for years made a practice of carefully grading nearly every kind of fruit. Pears he puts up in three classes; No. 2 are the best of the blemished, and go in barrels; No. 1 are all clean, well-formed samples, and go either in kegs or 12-quart baskets; extras are very fine large samples, and these are put up in 6-quart baskets, with pretty fancy cover, cut one-eighth of an inch thick, with a large elliptical opening cut out of the middle, over which cardinal

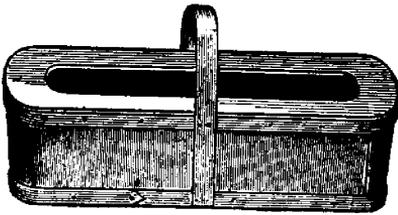


FIG. 67.

CARPENTER'S COVER FOR FRUIT BASKET.

leno is stretched, see Fig. 67. This is a handsome package, showing the fruit, and at the same time completely protecting it from injury, when packed basket upon basket in the car. The grade and the sender's name is marked on the handle, while the address is branded upon the cover, or written on a card and placed inside of the cover.

While it is a great advantage to ship No. 1 and 2 in separate packages instead of being mixed together, yet, if the latter class could be kept entirely out of the market, except as evaporated or dried fruit, it would be a great relief all around. Every one hates to handle second-class fruit; the grower won't put his name on the packages containing it; the salesmen hate to offer it for sale, and the buyer grumbles, no matter how cheap he gets it, and so nobody is satisfied.

In packing apples, equal care in grading is needed, whether for home or for foreign markets. Mr. W. White, of Ottawa, encloses us the following clipping from an English paper, advocating the use of small packages for choice apples:

"Why don't Canadians take a leaf out of the Australians' book in supplying British apple-markets?" said a well-known Canadian man of business the other day. "I know that the Canadian fruit comes in at a different season, and is of not quite the same class, but I believe that were Canadian exporters to send their choice apples here in smaller boxes or barrels, they would do a large trade. You may see the Australian apples at Covent Garden in 40 lb. boxes, and upon each box about 10s. is realized. A barrel of Canadian apples of the weight of 196 lbs. goes for about the same money. A man will often buy a small lot of 40 lbs. for his family use, and I fancy the Canadians would do well to consider the possibilities of meeting the demand for smaller lots which the Australian trade has shown to exist."