

Matters That Should Be Settled

G. H. HUTTON, EASTON'S CORNERS, ONT.

The outlook for the export trade in apples, judging from past records, seems promising. There are, however, some conditions that need to be changed before it will be possible to reckon on probable returns.

Last year it was impossible, in many cases, to secure barrels, and when boxes were used the extra cost of picking and packages consumed the profit. Under ordinary circumstances, the northwest offers a good opening for much of our fruit, but the freight charges are too high to warrant much effort to secure this trade. For the smaller fruits I believe that the removal of the duty on sugar, so that canning factories might be established on a profitable basis, would be a great inducement for a larger production of these fruits.

Judging from what I have seen of the McIntosh Red throughout the Ottawa valley, together with my own experience and that of such large growers as Mr. Harold Jones, of Maitland, I believe there is no better apple for this district. It is true that the McIntosh and its kindred is liable to spot, but by careful application of Bordeaux this disease may be prevented from causing injury in excess of 5 per cent. during the most unfavorable seasons. The yield and the price realized for perfect apples will amply repay for the care and treatment.

One of the greatest mistakes that has been made in this section in regard to planting orchards has been in planting too closely. In eight to ten years the branches of the trees in many orchards will interlace. If the trees have room to grow and attain full size the fruit will have a better exposure to the sun and thus have a better flavor and color, and command the highest market price.

Huron County as a Fruit Section

WM. WARNOCK, GODERICH, ONT.

For apples, pears, plums and cherries there is no better district in the province than Huron county, and my experience with grapes and peaches has been very favorable. I have 44 varieties of the best hardy grapes under cultivation, and they have given very satisfactory crops for the past 14 years. I have grown 32-ounce bunches on my Wilder and Eaton varieties, and 26-ounce bunches on my Campbell's Early and Agawam. I have never seen better grapes than can be grown here. The cause of our fruit coming to such great perfection is in our very suitable soil and splendid climate, as grape-wood and all new growth of fruit trees have a longer time to ripen and mature at the end of the growing season, from the effect of Lake Huron's deep waters, which keep away severe early frost in the fall for at least a distance of three miles inland.

Aside from the peculiar natural adaptability of this section for fruit growing we in Goderich expect to be favored, above all other parts of the province, in supplying the great northwest provinces with fruit. The largest grain boats

from Port Arthur come into Goderich harbor and unload at our elevators, and they will always make the most direct as well as the cheapest means of transportation as far as Port Arthur. These large boats will be strong competitors for freight up the lakes. This will give the fruit growers of this vicinity a considerable advantage over other parts of the province in competing for the trade of the northwest, which is certain to be of very great importance to the fruit growers of Ontario in a few years.

The Best System of Cold Storage

G. W. HUNT, OTTAWA, ONT.

The best system of cold storage is a matter to which I have given a good deal of consideration and experiment during the last four years. Until that time I was seriously opposed to the transportation of our Ontario fruits under ice, and did not change my views until I had it demonstrated to my own satisfaction that our fruits could be transported under ice and not destroy the keeping quality to any tangible degree.

Having made these tests I am firmly of the opinion that the Hanrahan car is without an equal. To my mind it is the only refrigerator car running that is of any use to the growers for transporting perishable fruit long distances. I believe the universal use of the Hanrahan car on Canadian roads would mean at least one to two million dollars a year to the fruit growers of Ontario.

The fact that the goods in this car are delivered dry and in good conditions means a great deal to the grower, not to take into consideration the fact that with the universal use of this car glutted markets would be unknown, as one or two days does not make any material difference in the quality of the fruit. In order to have this or any other system a success the fruit must necessarily be in good condition when it goes in the car, and the car not loaded to the roof. The minimum load can be put in the Hanrahan car and kept in good condition for two weeks.

Only The Best Wanted.—The Fruit Division at Ottawa has received the following report from Inspector John Brown, of Glasgow:

The first shipment of American apples arrived at Glasgow August 10 in the steamship "Anchoria," of the Anchor Line. There were about 100 barrels in the parcel. These consisted principally of Dorchess, which averaged 12s. to 14s. Fruit was small and not of fancy quality. The supplies of home and continental fruit are large, and it will be advisable for Canada to send only her best to Great Britain this season.

The Fruit Division, Ottawa, is warning apple shippers that in order to grade as No. 1 or XXX, apples must be fairly mature. Apples that have not taken on their proper color and otherwise show marks of inferiority as the result of being pulled too green cannot be graded anything higher than No. 2.