

Portugal.—Every promise of a large and good crop. The first shipments have arrived, and are realizing prices equal to 15/ to 17/ per American barrel.

Holland and Germany.—Early kinds short in quantity; later sorts more abundant, but total yield probably not more than one-third of the average.

France and Belgium.—The reports to hand show that there will be a fair supply of early sorts; but of late kinds the crop will be deficient.

England.—The main substance of the majority of reports from our home districts consists principally of records of the weather, which has certainly been exceptional, and 1896 must inevitably be remembered as the "frostless" year. In the early spring, indications of abundant crops predominated generally throughout the country. But the hopes thus raised were shattered later on by long-continued drought, the injurious effect of which was intensified by a series of excessively cold nights during the early part of May. After this we had rains, but they proved extremely local, and did not favorably affect the crop generally.

The net result is to indicate that of early kinds our crop will be scarce and soon over. Of later sorts the yield will be much below the average, and altogether insufficient to affect our requirements from your side, and our London markets should be prepared to receive fruit from America and Canada at a much earlier date than for many years past. And I consider there will be a special opening for supplies from the Hudson River.

Covent Garden, London, Eng.

J. B. THOMAS.

APPLES.

Messrs. Woodall & Co., Liverpool, write: The past season, as shewn below, was comparatively unimportant, the total imports into Great Britain being 788,000 barrels, against 1,438,200 barrels in the previous season. The quality and condition (especially of Canadian) were generally good, and a much larger quantity could have been disposed of without affecting prices. A feature of the past season was the Albemarle Pippin, which made its appearance in large quantities, and, being of good size, clear skinned, and of excellent flavor, it at once usurped the position of the Newtown Pippin, which for some time past has been small and scabby. The quantity, however, was so large, that with the exception of one period, only moderate prices were obtainable; but they will undoubtedly take the first position on the market, and growers of Newtowns must endeavor to improve the fruit or be left in the background. The English crop last Autumn was the largest on record, and it was thought that American and Canadian fruit would not be wanted; but as soon as good sound varieties especially Baldwins—began to arrive, their superiority at once asserted itself; and throughout the whole season there was an active demand at a comparatively high range of prices—this being particularly the case when Canadian shipments came to hand, which again confirms our opinion that the English