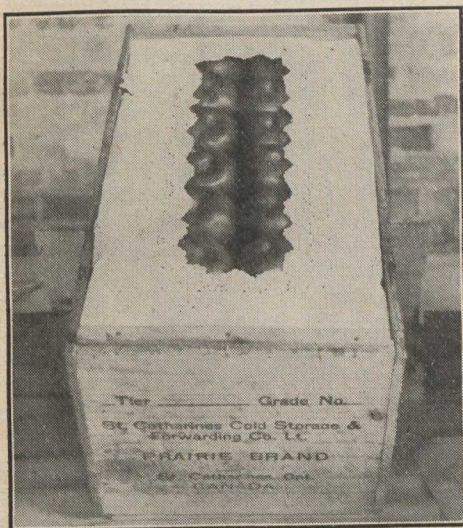


The Fruit Marks Act*

FROM time to time charges are heard of dishonesty in packing apples. In the past it has been a favorite pastime with the newspaper



Packing that Pays

This box of apples was shown at the Niagara District Exhibition. It is a model. The pack is uniform and correct. The lace paper adds to the appearance.

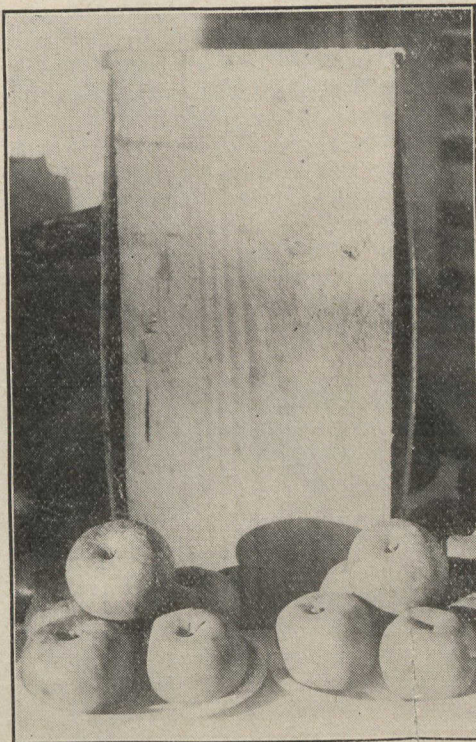
men to picture the old grey-bearded deacon hiding the withered and wormy apples in the middle of the barrel, and it has afforded a spicy bit of reading for the public. For the past few years, however, very much less of this thing has been heard. The growing importance of the industry, which is ranking amongst the first in the province and is bringing nearly a million dollars into circulation annually, and the appreciation of our fruit in foreign markets demands respect.

The Fruit Marks Act owes its origin to these charges of dishonesty. The farmers lay under a grave charge which needed investigating. The result has proved that many things are true, but also that much of the trouble originates in second hands, and also that buyers are prone to kick on quality to drive a good bargain, and often with the intention of obtaining a rebate of the act. The speculator thinks that the act is entirely for his benefit, to protect him from buying poor apples, but does not seem to think it should prevent him from selling the same apples in the same or more fraudulent condition. The consumer also thinks that the act is framed in his behalf to protect him from the wicked grower. Both are mistaken to a great extent. The law was framed almost entirely in the interests of the producer, in order that packing may be uniform and that a barrel of apples, branded No. 1, may

*An address delivered by Mr. D. I. Fitch last winter at the N.S. Fruit Growers' Convention.

be above suspicion, and that a general feeling of confidence may exist which is so necessary to easy and profitable business, and also that the honest and reliable packer may not be informed by his careless and dishonest neighbor.

The Fruit Marks Act has had something to do with the user, but more is due to the growing pride in the great industry, and the feeling that confidence in the integrity of our packing is necessary to the proper growth and extension of our trade. Last year, owing to the unfortunate bad quality of our fruit, and irritation at the high prices which were ruling, the old cry revived to a certain extent. Much of the complaint unfortunately was de-



The Proper Bilge

A well packed box of apples should show a bilge as illustrated in the cut. Slackness results when box is not full enough to bilge.

served, especially in the local market, but a great deal was exaggerated, owing to the desire of the newspapers to provide something spicy for their readers, and to the unfortunate pleasure so many human beings have in attributing unworthy motives to their fellow beings.

Last season Mr. Vroom and I examined a great many apples, more than ever before in the same time. Two things were very evident as the result of our investigations. Too many third grade apples were shipped, and the absolute need of a standard for No. 2's was plainly evident; since then, this latter has been defined. Our apples were unfortunately of poor quality

last year, and prices were high, which means, of course, that poor apples were packed. This thing was carried too far altogether, and a great many apples went forward that were altogether worthless, and most of them marked No. 2. It is unfortunate that those apples brought nearly the same price as better apples, in the hurry of the sales in London, and the poor facilities for examination that is so necessary. There is also a class of buyers that are going to buy the cheapest apples no matter what they are. They take the place of better apples however, and very much complaint and dissatisfaction is seen to arise. When I was in London I heard complaints both loud and deep over this class of apples, very similar to the murmurs we heard wafted over from St. John last fall. If only three-quarters of the apples had been shipped, results would have been better. The shipment of No. 3's, however, have come to stay, which makes it absolutely necessary to have the new standard for the No. 2's. I am of the opinion that No. 2's should be as far from spot, bruise, and worm holes as No. 1's; that spots, cracks, and other defective apples should grade No. 3, and that no larger percentage of defective apples should be allowed than would admit of speedy packing.

Violations of section 4 still continue. This section requires the name and



Apples or Cabbages—which?

This cut illustrates "the horrible example" in packing and wrapping apples. It was entered for competition at the Niagara District Exhibition. The fact that such was exhibited indicates that there are men still who do not know how to pack and wrap fruit. The apples in the box were excellent, but the manner of putting them up, disqualified the package.

address of the packer shall be on every barrel as well as the party and grade of the apple. Fictitious names are too often used by dealers, and always on poor lots of apples. When a man is