

The Standardizing of Apple Barrels

At the recent Dominion Fruit Conference in Ottawa a prolonged discussion was held over a proposal to adopt a standard apple barrel. The discussion resulted in a resolution being passed urging the government to provide two standards for apple barrels, one the 96-quart barrel, commonly used in Nova Scotia, and the other the 112-quart barrel, commonly used in Ontario. The Department of Agriculture was requested to provide for the enforcement of the use by all growers of one or the other of these standards, and that the manufacturers should be made responsible for their size.

Talking privately with the delegates after the discussion, there seemed to be a general opinion that ultimately only one standard will be recognized and that it will be the larger barrel as used in Ontario. While the Nova Scotia delegates fought hard for the smaller barrel, it was said that a number of them personally were favorable to the larger barrel, but that they had been instructed by their association to work for the smaller barrel. Many of the larger growers of Nova Scotia are said to favor the large barrel, and to hold the view that within a few years the majority of growers will do the same.

THE DISCUSSION.

The discussion was opened by Mr. E. A. Dewar, of Charlottetown, P.E.I.: "In Prince Edward Island," said Mr Dewar, "we get our stock from New Brunswick or Nova Scotia. We ship to Great Britain, where our barrels compete with the Ontario and United States barrels, which are larger. This makes it harder for us to introduce our barrels. It costs no more to head or

to ship the larger barrel, and time is saved in packing them. The British buyers pay more for the larger barrel, as many of them resell from it by weight. The flat hooped barrel looks and sells better than the round hooped barrel, although the latter has strength in its favor. Nova Scotia stock, I find, is not properly matured, and shrinks considerably. The Ontario barrels are better dried, and stand shipping better than the Nova Scotia barrel."

Dairy Commissioner J. A. Ruddick read the specifications for the legal barrel, which stated that it must not contain less than 96 quarts.

Captain C. O. Allen, Kentville, N.S.: "Our Nova Scotia barrel complies with all the legal requirements. We are now accustomed to it, and do not want to be forced to change it. While there is no extra charge for shipping the large barrel at present, it is not likely that this condition will continue, as the steamship companies are not going to continue long to carry twenty pounds a barrel free. Had we used the larger barrel last year we would have shipped 65,000 less barrels than we did. Were we to change to the large barrel the steamship companies would soon notice the change and alter their charges accordingly. I admit, however, that the Ontario and Quebec barrels are going forward at a lower rate proportionately than ours. The appearance of the barrels has little effect on the sale of the apples, as after the apples reach the Old Country the barrels are opened and the apples are resold in small quantities by weight and not in bulk."

P. W. Hodgetts, Toronto: "Ontario

fruit growers do not want to change the barrel they are using, as we believe that we are getting the best of the deal. The British buyers pay us well for the extra weight we give them, and we have a considerable saving in shipping charges."

Capt. Allen: "We are testing the Ontario barrels on a comprehensive scale, and are open to conviction in regard to its merits, but for the present would like to see this matter left in abeyance."

Prof. W. S. Blair, Macdonald College, Quebec: "It is most important that we should have a recognized standard through all of Canada, as the different sizes now used result in injustice in some cases."

R. J. Graham, Belleville, Ontario: "There is a considerable difference in the size of Nova Scotia barrels. The staves vary in length. The onus for the size of the barrel should be placed on the cooperage firms. If Nova Scotia and Ontario are to continue to use different sized barrels I am satisfied, but the barrels used in each province should be uniform in size. Quite a lot of the Nova Scotia barrels are smaller than the legal size. A few people in Ontario are still using the stingy barrel, but ninety-five per cent. are using the large size. In Nova Scotia the great majority use the stingy size."

Capt. Allen: "This stingy sized barrel has appeared during only the last two years. In Ontario the barrels are used for flour and apples, and in Nova Scotia they are used for potatoes and apples. It would be a great hardship if we had to use the large barrel for potatoes."

R. J. Messenger, Bridgetown: "We should be striving for a national standard for Canada. The Nova Scotia barrel is

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