

### The Fruit Marks Act.

#### WHAT THE ACT MEANS, AND HOW IT OPERATES.

After the Parliament of Canada passed the Fruit Marks Act in 1901, the Minister of Agriculture directed that every opportunity should be afforded the fruit growers and packers of the Dominion to meet its requirements and to fulfill their obligations to the public, and for a year the work of the Department in this respect was informational and educational. This year some amendments were made to the Act as originally passed, and to-day the Act in all its provisions is "as plain as a pike staff," and every clause of it so simple that "he who runs may read." No farmer, or fruit-grower, or packer, who is honest in his endeavors and straightforward in his trading, need fear any of its clauses. The Act is being enforced, and the inspectors appointed to execute its requirements have been instructed to do their duty. The principal sections of the Act are:

Section 4.—Every person who, by himself or through the agency of another person, packs fruit in a closed package, intended for sale, shall cause the package to be marked in a plain and indelible manner, before it is taken from the premises where it is packed,

(a) with the initials of his Christian names, and his full surname and address;

(b) with the name of the variety or varieties; and

(c) with a designation of the grade of fruit, which shall include one of the following six marks: for fruit of the first quality, No. 1 or XXX; for fruit of the second quality, No. 2 or XX; and for fruit of the third quality, No. 3 or X; but the said mark may be accompanied by any other designation of grade, provided that designation is not inconsistent with or marked more conspicuously than the one of the said six marks which is used on the said package.

Section 5.—No person shall sell, or offer, expose or have in his possession for sale, any fruit packed in a closed package and intended for sale, unless such package is marked as required by the next preceding section.

Section 6.—No person shall sell, or offer, expose or have in his possession for sale any fruit packed in a closed package, upon which package is marked any designation which represents such fruit as of No. 1 or XXX, finest, best or extra good quality, unless such fruit consist of well-grown specimens of one variety, sound, of nearly uniform size, of good color for the variety, of normal shape, and not less than ninety per cent. free from scab, worm holes, bruises and other defects, and properly packed.

Section 7.—No person shall sell, or offer, expose or have in his possession for sale, any fruit packed in any package in which the faced or shown surface gives a false representation of the contents of such package; and it shall be considered a false representation when more than fifteen per cent. of such fruit is substantially smaller in size than, or inferior in grade to, or different in variety from, the faced or shown surface of such package.

Explanations of its application may be taken thus: On packages packed or marked contrary to the provisions of the Act, inspectors may, after notifying the packer by letter or telegram, place the words "falsely packed" or "falsely marked"; and a fine of \$40 may be imposed for illegally removing the inspector's brand.

It will be noticed that only "closed packages" need be marked. A closed package is defined to be a box or barrel, the contents of which cannot be seen or inspected when such is closed. Baskets, berry crates or berry boxes even, with veneer covers, are not considered "closed packages" and therefore do not require marking. Cranberries and all wild fruits are not subject to the provisions of the Act.

Merchants are held responsible for the fruit they offer for sale (or fruit in their possession for sale), but the original wrong-doer, if found, will in every case be prosecuted.

The penalty for a violation of the law with reference to packing and marking is not less than twenty-five cents and not more than one dollar per package; for removing an inspector's brand, \$40; for obstructing an inspector, \$25 to \$500. The fines are divided equally between the informant and the Crown.

Inspectors are given large powers under the Act to enter premises for the purpose of making an examination, and to detain shipments of fruit for the same purpose. The packer, however, is amply protected by the stipulation that immediate notice must be given by the inspector to the packer when fruit, which at all times is at the risk of the owner, is branded or detained, and the inspector who exceeds his authority is subject to a heavy penalty.

The main points of this Act may be summed up as follows:

(1) The face of all fruit packages must fairly represent the fruit throughout.

(2) Closed boxes and barrels must be marked with the name and address of the packer, the variety of the fruit, and its grade.

(3) It is an offence, within the meaning of the

Act, to sell, to offer for sale, or to have in possession for sale, fraudulently packed or marked fruit, even when the buyer and seller are ignorant of the fact, as well as when one or both have knowledge of the fact.

(4) The Act does not prevent the packing or selling of any grade of fruit that is properly packed and marked.

(5) The Act does not provide for the inspection of particular lots of fruit at the request of the buyer or seller.

(6) Commission merchants who, after notice, handle fruit put up contrary to the provisions of the Act, will be proceeded against.

(7) There is no definition of grades marked "No. 2," "XX," "No. 3," or "X."

Already the beneficial effect of this Act is being felt; and when it is fully known that dishonesty in packing and describing Canadian fruit does not exist, an enormous impetus will be given to our fruit industry in all the markets of the world. At present, inquiries are being made concerning the transatlantic shipments of early Canadian apples. The Department of Agriculture will not take any responsibility, but through the Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying, Prof. Jas. W. Robertson, Ottawa, will assist in securing cool or cold-storage space on ocean steamers, if early information be given as to the probable quantity, the date of shipment and the destination desired.

It will pay to send only selected apples of choice individual quality, and packed in boxes rather than in barrels. It will be necessary to have the apples picked and packed on the green or firm side, so that they may be delivered in the United Kingdom in such a state that they may be handled with a very small percentage of bruised or decayed ones by the retail dealers into whose hands they will go from the wholesale centers.

Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1st.—Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to the "Farmer's Advocate" are answered in this department free.

2nd.—Our purpose is to give help in real difficulties; therefore, we reserve the right to discard enquiries not of general interest, or which appear to be asked out of mere curiosity.

3rd.—Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith, though the name is not necessarily for publication.

4th.—In veterinary questions, the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated, otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given.

#### A Reminder.

The attention of our readers is again directed to the conditions published regularly at the top of this ("Questions and Answers") department which require that the full name and P. O. address must in every case accompany enquiries, showing their bona-fides. Otherwise, we cannot undertake to answer them. If for any good reason the enquirer does not care to have his or her name published, state that in the letter and your request will be complied with. It is also unreasonable to expect questions to be answered by mail, when the department is conducted for the purpose that not only the enquirer but readers generally may be benefited. State the questions fully and clearly.

#### Veterinary.

##### FATALITY IN LAMB.

One of my lambs appeared all right at night and was found dead in the morning. A post-mortem revealed the intestines in a normal condition; the fatty covering of the stomach had a yellowish tinge. The cavity where the lungs and liver are was full of a yellow liquid; the lungs quite red, as if full of blood; about half cupful of blood was found in the cavity back of the lungs.

Muskoka Co.

Ans.—The post-mortem description is rather confusing. The lungs are not in the same cavity as the liver; the former is in the thoracic and the latter in the abdominal cavity. The presence of the yellowish liquid in the lung cavity indicates pleurisy, which is caused by wet and cold, and kills young animals very quickly. It is probable that was the trouble, and treatment would have been of no avail.

J. H. REED, V. S.

##### CALF THAT WILL NOT DRINK.

About a month ago, my three-months-old calf ceased drinking. Will drink neither milk nor water. It was fed on dry meal, clover hay and skimmed milk. Another calf same age and fed the same is doing well.

York Co.

Ans.—It is probable your calf has digestive derangement. Give it a purgative of about 8 ozs. raw linseed oil. If this does not act in 24 hours, repeat the dose. Give it the meal mixed with its milk, and give 20 grs. sulphate of iron and 1 dr. each of gentian and ginger, as a drench, mixed with 1/2 pint water, night and morning.

J. H. REED, V. S.

#### CHOKING.

A few minutes after my horse was brought from the field to the stable he was taken sick. He would put his ears back, duck his head and make a peculiar noise. The muscles of the neck seemed to be drawn up into small space and standing prominently out and very hard. The spasms only lasted a few seconds, but occurred every few minutes for about an hour, when he got all right. I had a sucking colt last year that acted the same every few weeks.

R. J. L.

Ans.—Your horse was choking. There must have been some oats or chop in the manger and he ate too greedily and swallowed the food imperfectly masticated. A bolus of the food lodged in some part of the gullet, and the symptoms you describe were those of a horse making vain attempts to swallow. The pain is considerable and sometimes the symptoms are excessive. When the obstruction can be located, external manipulation will help to break it down, but sometimes a probang has to be passed. This is a difficult operation in a horse and should be attempted only by a veterinarian. The accident can be averted by feeding out of a box so arranged that the horse can only get a small quantity of grain at once. Manufacturers of stable fittings make what they call "a slow-feeding box," which answers well for horses that feed too greedily. Another method is to put a few stones about the size of a small bowl in the box or to have a feed-box with a large surface and scatter the grain thinly over the bottom. Any scheme to prevent the horse getting too much of a mouthful. Sometimes horses choke on grass. Your colt last year no doubt suffered from choking too. When an animal becomes subject to this accident, he should be fed soft food in small quantities for some weeks in order to allow the gullet to regain its normal condition, as the repeated choking is due to a dilation of the organ in some particular part.

J. H. REED, V. S.

#### ITCHINESS IN MARE.

1. Mare rubs her mane and tail and bites herself. Skin healthy and never gets sore. It is worse in the spring, when the hair is filled with a whitish dandruff. 2. Can you recommend anything that will correct the fault in a colt that turns his toes outwards?

J. I.

Peel Co., Ont.

1. Give your mare a thorough washing with strong warm soft-soap suds, applied with a scrubbing brush. Rub until dry, and then dress the affected parts once daily with the following lotion: corrosive sublimate, 30 grs.; soft water, one quart. Rub well so that the dressing will reach the skin. 2. Little can be done for colts of this conformation. The deformity, in most cases, commences at the fetlock joint. If a properly-constructed contrivance were applied when the colt is quite young, and carefully adjusted periodically, the joints might be straightened, but the expense would be so great few owners would incur it. Where the fault lies wholly in the foot, it can be rectified by trimming to the proper shape.

J. H. REED, V. S.

#### OPERATION FOR NON-BREEDING MAKES.

Will you give a brief description of the anatomy of the genital organs of the mare, and how to operate on a mare that will not breed on account of closure of the neck of the womb. Also state whether the womb is entered during coition?

A. B. V. B.

The cavity leading from the vulva to the neck of the womb (called the os) is called the vagina. If the hand be inserted into the vagina, at the anterior portion the fingers will come in contact with a body projecting backwards into the vagina. This is the neck of the womb. In the center of this is an opening into which a finger should pass readily. Where this opening is closed conception cannot take place, and the operation mentioned consists in thoroughly washing the hand and arm, then oiling with sweet oil, 50 parts, carbolic acid, one part; inserting it as described and forcing one or two fingers through this opening with a rotary motion. Then the mare is bred, and the seed, or some of it, enters the womb through the opening. The womb is not entered during coition.

J. H. REED, V. S.

#### HORSE INTERFERES.

I have a 5-year-old horse that interferes badly with both hind feet when walking, keeping the ankles sore all the time.

W. P.

P. E. Island.

Ans.—When horses interfere while walking, there is a congenital peculiarity of gait or conformation that cannot be corrected by shoeing. If expedient, allow him to go without shoes on the hind feet, but if the nature of the work demands shoes, he will have to wear ankle boots for protection.

J. H. REED, V. S.