

Mr. ALLAN.—Yes; though they are getting into a better system of handling now. On the other side barrels are handled much more carefully than here. The only objection to a square package is that you cannot pack as tightly or well to keep them from moving. I would not advise the putting up of anything except very choice fruit in the small packages, nor in any package for that matter, because it takes as much labor and costs as much money to pack and send across a poor lot of apples as it does for the best.

Mr. NICHOL.—Have you tried rolling them up in tissue paper?

Mr. ALLAN.—I did try that a good many years ago and on that occasion it came out well, but to what extent that could be profitably carried I do not know. You will find a good deal of fruit handled that way in Covent Garden. Something of that kind could be done with extra fine specimens in repacking. I am strongly impressed from the little experience I had three years ago that repacking of these poor cargoes might be resorted to advantageously. Boys and girls can be hired to do the work at merely nominal wages and the only trouble is the loss of the poor and bruised fruit.

The SECRETARY.—I would like to ask you about early apples. Do you think it would be possible to get any of our early apples over?

Mr. ALLAN.—Yes, certainly. I think the Duchess would go but it must be picked on the green side. You could scarcely try Red Astrachan. All early apples must be kept in a cool atmosphere. I do not see the slightest difficulty in taking those soft fruits across in a cold air compartment, and I believe we could get higher prices for those early fruits than we can expect for our winter varieties.

The SECRETARY.—Do you think it would be possible to get pears over to England; Bartlett pears that are picked green?

Mr. ALLAN.—I think there would be no difficulty in getting them over with the same vessel arrangements. As to how it would pay that would depend altogether on the state of the American crop. If the British and European crop was short it might be expected to pay well. I would not advise the shipment of our pears to the English market except under those circumstances.

Mr. DEMPSEY.—Does the pear crop often fail in the channel islands?

Mr. ALLAN.—I do not think so. If we could educate the English taste up to appreciate the fine flavor of our pears we might do better, but they have not got to that point yet. They are coming to it gradually, however. They now eat our apples, while a few years ago they thought they were no good except for cooking.

HOW TO MAKE THE BEST OF TEN ACRES IN FRUIT CULTURE.

Mr. MORDEN.—The first requisite is the right man, and that man must have the qualifications of a solid business man. To make money in fruit growing requires business talent and it is a great mistake to imagine that a person lacking in business ability will ever make a successful fruit cultivator. Next to that business ability he requires a knowledge of the business he is engaged in. I will not dwell upon this, although it is a current idea among city people that every man is a born farmer and fruit grower. If you want to find a man who thinks he knows all about agriculture and fruit growing it will be necessary for you to go in search of him in the centre of some densely populated city. The men who have followed this business all their lives know very little about it. Although, as I have said, this is a very common idea it is a mistake. The fruit grower needs a practical knowledge of his business in addition to business qualifications. He also requires pluck and must be willing to work and fight weeds eight months of the year. He must hate weeds with an undying hatred and manifest that hatred every day of the week except Sunday. Having got the right man the next thing is to locate him in the right place. In the first place I would locate that man near some source of fertilisers. It is necessary to put him near some town or village of considerable size, because to get the best results out of ten acres requires no inconsiderable application of fertilisers. I would also have him