

which should be removed. The presumption is that the grading is done rapidly, and that a different side of the apple was exposed to the grader's eye, when it was being placed in the sorting basket. This careful inspection after the fruit is in the barrel gives an opportunity for a still further rejection of imperfect specimens.

#### RACKING.

The process of racking consists in a sharp shake from side to side with the object of settling the apples into place. Racking should be done on a solid foundation, such as a heavy plank. Even on a floor it is necessary to use a plank. It cannot be properly done upon the ground. Racking should be done with a slight, sharp jar, rather than with a swinging, throwing motion. Serious injury to the fruit may result if it is thrown from side to side. No good purpose is served by any motion that would tend to throw the apples out of place. What is wanted is a slight, quick, jar *after each basketful* is placed in the barrel. If three or four basketful are placed in the barrel without racking no subsequent racking will be effective and in all probability such a barrel will be slack after a long journey. The racking is a very important feature in good packing.

To emphasize the necessity of good racking, I quote from the report of Mr. J. N. Chute, a Nova Scotian fruit grower of many years' experience, who acted, during the winter of 1912-13, as special agent for the United Fruit Companies, Ltd. of Nova Scotia, in Great Britain. Mr. Chute says:—

'I have opened a large number of these barrels at the tail end to find out why they were slack and with only one exception I found the apples bruised to indicate that they had been headed tight enough. The causes most likely were lack of proper racking or standing too long after being headed up. I was called to look at a parcel of slack Spies. I found that the apples had evidently been pressed very hard, probably three or four weeks before shipment. The apples were bruised and each bruise had started to rot.'

A heavy plank for racking upon should be considered essential in all cases. Good racking, as has been observed, cannot be done except upon an unelastic base. Of course in orchard packing it cannot be dispensed with, but it is equally necessary in nearly all cases where packing is done in the warehouse. A floor made of inch boards over joists placed even two feet apart, is not sufficiently solid unless the barrel should happen to be directly over a joist, which can not always be counted upon. In all cases, both in the warehouse and in the orchard, provide a heavy plank for racking purposes.

#### MARKING RACKING PLANK.

As the packing of No. 1's and No. 2's is usually going on at the same time, it quite frequently occurs, with careless workmen, that a basket of No. 2's will be put in a No. 1 barrel, or a basket of No. 1's will be placed in a No. 2 barrel. It is not desirable, of course, that either of these accidents should take place. A safety device is to have a different racking plank for each grade, and have it painted a prominent colour, such, for instance, as white for No. 1 and yellow for No. 2. The workmen's attention is then called definitely to the grade of the barrel which he is filling.

When the barrel is full to within two or three layers of the top, a 'follower' is placed on the apples, and the packer holds this firmly in place, while he continues to rack or shake the barrel. The effect of this is to make a comparatively level surface, upon which the last process or 'tailing up' can be done. A follower is a circular piece of plank slightly smaller in diameter than a barrel head and covered on the face with heavy felt such as is used by harness makers for pads.