

boxes, and hence bruised badly. Undoubtedly the barrel is by far the best package yet tried for apples and when the quarter hoops are driven down far enough to allow the barrel roll upon them, it saves the fruit from bruising in the bilge of the barrel.

I cannot too severely condemn employees of railways and steamships for the rough manner in which they handle every kind of fruit package. Of the fruits shipped to the Colonial Exhibition, fully ten per cent. of the apples were damaged, twenty per cent. of pears, and ninety per cent. of plums and grapes. The express companies were no exception. It is high time that something were done to compel these corporations to exercise necessary care in handling packages.

Both growers and shippers will be anxious to hear something about market prospects. Reports in the newspapers have been discouraging alike to grower and shipper, but as I was receiving widely different reports at the same time, I concluded that the published reports were from a class of fruit brokers who would like very well to see shippers make a little profit in order to hold their trade, and hence they sent out word that export apples should be purchased at thirty to forty per cent. lower than last year, as the British and European crop was very large. These brokers would like to see shippers make their profit on this side of the ocean by reducing the price to the grower, instead of in the markets of Britain. No doubt early prospects were in favour of a generally good crop in Europe, but what are the facts now? Britain passed through a long, tedious and severe winter, a cold, backward spring, and a summer of unusual heat and drought. It is generally admitted throughout Kent (and this county sends more apples to the London market than any other) that the aggregate yield of marketable fruit will not exceed an average crop, and these are mainly early kinds. In midland counties prospects are less favourable than last year. Orchards have suffered severely from continued drought and blight, and growers agree that the crop will be under an average. The west or cider counties report a small crop of doubtful quality. In the north, where the cultivation of the apple is only nominal, indications point to an average crop of fair quality. Taken altogether, we are safe to conclude that the apple crop of the United Kingdom will not exceed that of 1886, with quality and size of samples inferior. Another point I may here mention that is well worth remembering; it is this: that British apples are mostly cookers, and it is rare to find an apple grown there combining both cooking and dessert qualities. This and a most important point, they concede readily to Canada.

Advices from the chief shipping ports of France, as well as the interior, agree that the quantity of apples suitable for the English markets will about equal that of last year. In the south-west Rennets and Dieudonne's promise fairly, but it is admitted by shippers that the quantity available for export is yearly less important; it is said that the shade of the apple trees is injurious to the vines amongst which they grow, and that when the trees die out they are not generally replaced.

Reports from the apple sections of Belgium and Holland indicate an average yield of early kinds, which are all disposed of before this date. Late varieties, which are extensively grown for the English markets, are a fairly good crop, and shippers claim the winter export trade will be fair. The outlook in Germany is favourable, but advices from Hamburg, Stettin and the interior cannot at present be relied upon with any degree

of certainty. Hence that local consum

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