

work, but the terrible state of the roads is entirely the cause. Farmers are quite unable to get out to attend the meetings, and with the best desire in the world to hear what the speakers have to say, they are impotent to help themselves. Last year was about the best in the institute work.

SPREAD THE FRUIT AROUND.

How Canadian Shippers May Obtain Good Prices.

Mr. Peter Ball, Canadian Commercial Agent at Birmingham, advises Canadian apple shippers not to pour the whole of their fruit crop into London, Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow, within a few weeks, for sale in auction rooms, but to spread them over the different towns, placing them in the hands of firms who could take regular supplies. The latter course would pay better.

"I could place," he states, "among different towns in this district up to 10,000 barrels a week, divided among respectable men, if any of our apple shippers would care to get into communication for regular supplies." It was most unfortunate that Canadians shipped so many apples just before Christmas. At the present time it is almost impossible to purchase Canadian apples in the market. Spys, Russets and Baldwins, which went for 12s 6d and 14s a barrel, now command from 21s to 25s.

CANNED AND EVAPORATED GOODS TRADE.

Mr. A. W. Grindley, agent of the Department of Agriculture in Great Britain, gives the following information in regard to the trade in canned and evaporated goods during 1902, in addition to the extracts from his annual report, published last week.

Fruit Pulp.

There is a good demand for the following fruit pulps, which can be put up in Canada: Strawberry, raspberry, gooseberry, black currant, peaches, pears, apricots.

The above fruits are largely used in jam factories in Great Britain.

Canadian packers of fruit pulps should observe the following points:

1. Use a heavy grade of charcoal tin plates for making the cans.
2. Do not use resin for soldering the inside seams, as the least portion imparts a bad flavor to the contents.
3. One gallon tins are preferable to cans holding five gallons, chiefly because there is less loss in case of a puncture or other cause of damage.
4. For colored pulps an internally lacquered tin is very much preferred.
5. No coloring matter or preservatives of any kind should be added.
6. Have cases holding cans made strongly and with tight covers, not slats.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF FRUIT GROWERS.

At the annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association at Bridgewater it was mentioned that the Dominion Minister of Agriculture had received a communication from leading fruit growers of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, asking him to call together at Ottawa a conference of representative fruit growers from all the provinces of Canada to discuss matters of national interest, such matters as might call for legislation by the federal parliament, or matters that might require unanimous action on the part of the fruit growers of this country. In this connection Mr. W. A. McKinnon, chief of the Fruit Division, Ottawa, referred to the advisability of concerted action regarding such subjects as transportation, legislation, uniformity of pack-ages, etc., and said that the Hon. Sydney Fisher and Prof. Robertson would welcome a full discussion of the proposal and an expression of opinion from the Nova Scotia and other provincial fruit growers' associations. The matter will accordingly be taken up by a committee of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association, some members of which suggested the formation of a Canadian Pomological Society of national character and scope.

APPLE BARREL STAVES.

A leading Guelph apple shipper writes the Fruit Division, Ottawa, that he can use from 12,000 to 15,000 barrels every year, and that it is his intention to buy the staves and make his own barrels hereafter. He says: "The trade will have to make great preparations, because all staves in the country will now be very green wood, and I should specially warn your department to urge all stave dealers to get drying kilns working so that stock will be O. K. when needed."

FRAUDULENT APPLE PACKING.

Under the above heading the Winnipeg Commercial of February 6th has an editorial of more than ordinary interest to the fruit shippers of Ontario. The article says: "Another Ontario fruit man was fined at Winnipeg last week for attempting to sell apples in this market which had been falsely marked and packed. The offender had not even the excuse that he was ignorant of the law to offer, and his guilt was even increased by the fact that he had been warned for the same offence before. If we are to judge the Ontario fruit shippers by the proportion of them fined here for dishonesty of this kind the opinion would be formed that more than an ordinary percentage of them are worth watching in business; and if we are to judge Ontario business men generally by the standard which this would set up for the fruit men, there is danger that the good opinion of them heretofore held will have to be considerably modified. The number and extent of the frauds exposed