

compared with prices obtained some previous years.

Probably such choice goods in small packages should not be sold by auction, but rather by private sale; for in this latter way each case is sold upon its merits, and not at the mercy of a public market. We are credibly informed that buyers at the public auction often put their heads together, and let one bidder establish the price, and then divide the spoils. No doubt, now that we have cold storage, and our fruit can be held, the necessity of quick sales will be done away, and we may expect to sell our fancy packages by private contract, and thus realize their full value.

#### CHOICE APPLES AT HOME

**M**R. JOHN BRENNAN, Grimsby, will not export his choice Spys. He sells them by private sale in Canada, and says he has realized this season as high as \$1.75 a bushel box for them on private order. Does not this prove that there are always people in every country who are ready to pay a high price for such goods?

#### THE FRUIT MARKS ACT

**"I** THINK," said Mr. G. E. Fisher, of Burlington, "that this Act needs a thorough revision. It compels people to do what they cannot do, gives them no advantage if they do it, and punishes them if they don't do it. The speculator uses it to frighten the grower into taking a low price for his apples, and the grower who packs his own fruit in fancy grades is compelled to mark it XXX when it is far superior to ordinary fruit of that grade."

Don't you think the value of Canadian apples abroad is advanced by the Act?

"Possibly, but it does not provide any basis for contract. No court will declare a sale valid if the buyer refuses to pay on the ground of the fruit not being up to grade. There should be provision for government

inspecting and branding, so that a seller could get a certificate of grade from an inspector for a car load of apples, and sell on that government grade. Then his sale would be final.

"The Act is not what we growers want; we must have a committee to take up the matter, and take time to go into it fully."

#### FALL PLOWING

**I** HAVE read that where an orchard is to be set out the soil should be loosened up with a sub-soil lance.

I am thinking of putting out a pear orchard, and perhaps an orchard of Talman Sweets for grafting next spring. When should I sub-soil the ground? this fall, or would the changing conditions of winter render that work useless by spring. Please let me know at once about this, as I want to plow the piece now, and if you advise it I will put the sub-soil lance on the plow this fall.

MORLEY HOWELL, St. George.

The preparation necessary to fit soil for fruit trees depends very much upon its texture. In deep, rich sandy loam, where there is considerable humus, little attention seems necessary except ordinary plowing and thorough harrowing of the surface soil; but in the case of soils more close in texture, the deeper the previous cultivation the better. Indeed no after-care or cultivation of the surface can ever make up for neglect of this deep moving and enriching of the soil, in which the roots are to spread, and for which they are to draw their nourishment. This work should be done in autumn, so that the excellent action of the winter's frost may help unlock nature's fertility, and at the same time have a mechanical influence in fining the texture of the ground. Downing says "no fruit tree should be planted in a hole of less size than three feet square and eighteen inches to two feet deep," and again "the most skillful cultivators among us make their spaces four or five feet in diameter, or three times the size of the roots, and it is incredible how much the luxuriance and vigor of growth, even in a poor soil, is promoted by this."