

Inspecting the Fruit.

The Fruit and Market Commission, established on the second year of its history, in a letter given out to the press about the end of May, I stated that last year's attempt to put the act into force was largely dictated to educational and explanatory work, and it was hoped that this season the packers would make an effort to comply with the act. This hope has so far, however, been turned into disappointment, as the inspections show that out of about fifteen carloads received here this summer, there has not been one which being the first carload for this season from any given packer that has had all the requirements of the act complied with.

That a small dealer or any one who having only a few barrels should not be posted or forget to pack and mark their packages right was only what was to be expected, but when we find several of the largest packers in Ontario sending apples which are improperly packed and without anything like the marks required by the act, it betrays either an intention to ignore the act altogether or an utter disregard of the consequences. I have already, at this early period of the apple season, found it necessary to wire to the apple shippers of some of the carloads and afterward take such measures as will introduce some of these packers to a magistrate, with the result that scarcely a day passes in which I do not receive one or more letters from the said packers trying by some excuse or another to account for the delinquency and sometimes making statements casting a doubt on the veracity of the inspector. There is no doubt that they think they are right, and the most charitable construction that can be put upon the situation is that they—the packers—are so much at the mercy of the gangs of the city that they do the actual work that they do not know themselves what is in the barrels, so accustomed has the selling his output by and packer become to entrust their work and fruit being subjected to a more rigid examination, before it had gone to such a distance

that their identity was lost, the reputations that have glittered so brightly for many years would long ago have become tarnished and dim, or perhaps completely destroyed with rust. It is very hard to find in Ontario a shipper who does not claim that his apples are the very best that goes to the English market. Referring to the surprise expressed in the letters before referred to and the doubt as to the correctness of the information as to the state of the fruit and its quality, I may say that all these things will avail nothing to save a careless or dishonest shipper. It is no use anyone writing from Ontario to tell us what is in the barrels; we have the article right here, and already three samples of apples have been sent to the department that have been taken from lots that arrived here marked fancy, choice and extra fancy. Some of the apples in these samples would not fully cover the surface of a half a dollar. It is, I believe, the determination of the department that this kind of thing must stop, that it is my intention to do all in my power to stop it. Having thus fully expressed my sentiments on the situation as regards the matter, I shall be pleased to say a few words to the dealer at this time in your next issue, if in so doing I shall not be trespassing on your valuable space.

Yours etc.
J. J. PHILIP.
Dominion Fruit Inspector.

Twine From Flax Fibre.

Experiments have been made during the past year looking to the manufacture of binder twine from flax fibre; and the latest reports state that they have been very successful. If these reports are authentic, a factory will be established in the northwest, and the tow turned out by the flax fibre mills will be utilized in the manufacture of flax fibre twine. The experiments have been conducted quietly by one of the harvester companies, and it is said that some of the twine turned out was used in the field this season, with much success. The North Dakota prison has also been conducting a series of experiments along the same

lines, and as North Dakota produces more flax than all other sections of the United States the successful outcome of the experiment would be of practical benefit to the farmers of that state. The twine produced is said to run a little over 400 feet to the pound, and to have the required strength and smoothness. A Minnesota country paper recently announced that a factory would be established by the Deering Harvester Company at Harmony, Minn., and that three acres of ground had been purchased as a factory site. It was in reality for the purpose of experimenting with flax fibre in twine manufacture that the late lamented Ignatius Donnelly persuaded the Minnesota legislature to establish the Minnesota plant at Stillwater. Mr. Donnelly believed that binder twine could be successfully made from flax if the right process could be discovered, and he hoped Minnesota might have the honor of discovering such a method. But the main purpose was lost sight of by the politicians, who found they had a weapon ready to their hands with which a blow might be struck at the "imaginary" twine trust. The prison plant was consequently credited to political purposes, and the profit of discovering a new and practical use for one of the most important products of the northwest, which heretofore has been practically wasted, devolved upon a manufacturing concern which has been freely denounced as an oppressor of the farmer who is the beneficiary. —Farm Implements, Minneapolis.

Australian Statesmen in Canada.

The Australian premier, Sir Edmund Barton, and his fellow members of the first parliament of the Australian Commonwealth have been taking in the Toronto exhibition this week.

In an impressive address before a large gathering at the official luncheon Sir Edmund Barton spoke in a most optimistic vein of the future of the empire and counselled the leaders of each British colony to find their own way to aid in the building up of the empire and to use their own means to give a preference to the mother coun-

try and to the sister colonies. He said: "The question of inter-imperial trade, or reciprocal trade, between the self-governing units of the empire and the United Kingdom, is one of very great difficulty. The United Kingdom, through its sovereign and parliament, and other parts of the King's dominions, self-governing rights, including the right to make their own tariffs. Those units are not likely to part with any of those rights of self-government, if I know them, neither here, in Australia, New Zealand, or anywhere else." said Sir Edmund, and loud applause greeted his statement. Continuing, he said it followed that any arrangement governing parts of the empire with reference to tariff rights must be one that recognizes those rights, and they could not be fully recognized without conceding that each self-governing part of the empire must regulate for itself the nature and extent of the preference which it will give to the other.

On Wednesday evening Sir Edmund Barton and Sir John Forrest were guests at a banquet of the board of trade and reiterated their views in favour of tariff preference by the individual and untrammelled action of the various colonies.

No. 1 buff hides have firmed up to 9½¢ per lb. Chicago. The market is firm and buyers numerous.

Labelle, Que., a town of 1,500 people on the Canadian Pacific near Northern branch, was attacked by fire Saturday last and almost wiped out.

"Home Nursing," is the title of a little book of 56 pages which has just been published by the Davis & Loewenstein Co., Ltd., of Montreal. It contains a fund of useful information of the subject of home nursing.

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