

A STANDARD BARREL.

The Imperative Need of Legislation Which Will Give the Canadian Farmer a Chance in Competition.

Mr. P. Innes spoke as follows: In introducing the discussion on the subject of a standard barrel I cannot do better than recount the history of the question up to this date. Prior to confederation the legal barrel in Nova Scotia was of the following dimensions: length of stave, 29 inches; head between chimes, 17 inches; diameter in centre inside 19 inches; corresponding as nearly as possible in shape and size to the Canadian or American flat-hooped flour barrel. After confederation this law became obsolete, and Dominion legislature fixed the dimensions as follows: stave, 27 inches, from croe to croe; head, 16½ inches to 17 inches; diameter, nearly as cylindrical as may be. This has been the law up to this date, but barrels of this size and shape have not been made or used in Nova Scotia, and practically we have been acting as if there was no law on the subject. Many of our farmers have continued to use barrels of the dimensions required by the old Nova Scotia law, while others had them made to suit their own ideas, with the result that we have

Barrels of Various Shapes

and dimensions, with capacity varying from 2 to 3 bushels. In 1896 agitation commenced to have this state of matters remedied. Mr. W. H. Chase, a large buyer of apples and potatoes, brought the matter to the notice of the Kings county board of trade, and the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association. The latter appointed a committee to obtain information, and report to the next meeting of the association.

When the committee's report was brought in, the following resolution was passed unanimously:

Resolved, that this association petition the minister of trade and commerce to have the Dominion statute relating to the size of apple and potato barrels revised, with the view of having a standard barrel of uniform size for those commodities throughout the Dominion, and would submit the following dimensions for such a barrel, which in the view of this association, would meet the circumstances of the case, viz: length of stave, 30 inches; between heads inside, 27 inches; diameter of head 17 inches; diameter of bilge inside, 19 inches."

No action was taken by the minister in the parliaments of 1897 and 1898, but in 1899 the following legislation was passed:

"On and after the first day of July, 1900, section 18 of the 'Weights and Measures Act shall be repealed, and the following shall be substituted therefor.

"All apples packed in Canada for sale by the barrel, shall be packed either in cylindrical veneer barrels, having an inside diameter of 18-1-3 inches, and 27 inches from head to head inside measure; or, in good and strong barrels of seasoned wood, 27 inches between the heads inside measure, and having a head diameter of 17 inches; and a middle diameter of 19 inches, and such last named barrels shall be sufficiently hooped, with a lining-hoop within the chimes, the whole well secured with nails.