

its varieties are: Apples, Stark, Gano, Baldwin and Wagener; plums, Burbank; pears, mostly winter varieties. A number are preparing to spray this season for the first time.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Mr. A. E. Dewar, Charlottetown, P. E. I.: A lot of trees were damaged by snow, otherwise

they are in good condition. There are a few complaints of damage by mice. Strawberries promise well. The season is later than usual. There is an increase in the area planted of fruit, principally winter apples, with some plums and a good many strawberries. More attention is being given to spraying.

The Standard Apple Box.

THOS. BEALL, LINDSAY, ONT.

On page 161 of *The Canadian Horticulturist* for April I find an article headed "A Standard Apple Box Adopted." I was pleased to learn that its adoption was a certainty and hope that the measurements given may be generally acceptable as a suitable apple box for market purposes. I regret, therefore, to see errors in the first paragraph which may cause some uncertainty about the measurements, and hope it may be corrected at once so that no further cause for discussion may remain.

The errors referred to are contained in the following quotation: "The standard size provided for is 10 x 11 x 22 inches inside measure, or 2,200 cubic inches. It holds one bushel and is equivalent to one-third of a barrel." Now, the measurement given, 10 x 11 x 22 inches, is 2,420 cubic inches, not 2,200 cubic inches, as stated. Then again, if it is intended that the box may be either 2,200 cubic inches (about 18 cubic inches less than a bushel), or may be the measurements as given in the act, which gives 2,420 cubic inches, it is an error to say that "it holds one bushel," for the first is less than a bushel and the latter more. Our standard bushel is a small fraction over 2,218 cubic inches.

As a rectangular box, although measuring an exact bushel, can not contain a bushel of apples because of the loss of space at the sides and in the angles, it is well to have the box a little larger, as has been done in this case to compensate for that loss. A standard apple barrel contains a shade over three bushels, and will hold the contents of three such boxes of apples as above referred to. I think, therefore, that the box adopted ought to satisfy all parties concerned and should not be changed.

Note.—The error referred to by Mr. Beall occurred in printing the figures 22 instead of 20. The measurements of the box should have read 10 x 11 x 20 inches, inside measurement, or 2,200 cubic inches.—Editor.

Cold Storage Buildings.

The Fruit Division, Ottawa, has received an interesting letter from Mr. Albert W. Swalm, American Consul at Southampton, England, in answer to enquiries with reference to the success of the Southampton cold storage buildings for fruit. Mr. Swalm asserts that the cold storage houses have succeeded beyond expectations and it would seem as if such fruits as the Russet, Canada Red, Baldwin and Ben Davis could be kept almost indefinitely. He draws,

however, attention to the fact that there was a serious loss in storing bruised and scabby fruit and windfalls. He could detect no great difference between the keeping qualities of the American and Canadian apples.

There was no attempt to store English apples, which he asserts will not likely, under any circumstances, be used for the winter markets. They will go into consumption directly, although many of them are fair keepers and some very fine in flavor. The English apple crop is not likely to show an increase that will in any way interfere with importations from America. The most serious defect that was to be noted in the cold storage stock was the want of care in the selection and grading of the stock that was put into cold storage.

Working of the Fruit Marks Act.

An account of the working of the fruit marks Act was given to the Committee on Agriculture at Ottawa recently by Mr. A. McNeill, chief of the fruit division of the Department of Agriculture. He reported that shippers of apples had observed the law fairly well for the last two years. Last year the apples of 811 shippers were inspected, and 264 were found to have violated some section of the act, but as many of these were careless rather than criminal, he gave the figures in another form. Of this number 153 violated the section regarding marking, and 170 violated the section regarding the grading of fruit, but of those only three violated it a second time. Forty-six were found to have faced barrels too highly, but only four committed the offence a second time. Therefore, Canadian apple shippers had a high reputation for honesty of packing.

Mr. McNeill read an extract from a recent issue of the *Market Growers' Gazette*, of London, England, with quotations for imported apples. After quoting various kinds of American apples, it referred to Canadian apples as "Canadians, all round, two shillings more." When, as year before last, Canada shipped 1,500,000 barrels of apples, the advantage of two shillings, or even one shilling, a barrel was more than compensation for the slight cost of inspection. Now, several of the states of the United States are imitating our act, but Mr. McNeill doubted if they would be successful, as they had not centralized federal power, as we have in Canada, to make uniform laws and enforce them.

Demonstrations in Spraying.

With a view of demonstrating the effectiveness of the preparations which have been recommended for the control of the chief insect and