

Notes and Comments

THE RED ASTRACHAN APPLE

THIS beautiful apple was introduced into England from Sweden in 1816, and since the Early Harvest has become so badly affected with scab, the Astrachan has of late been largely planted in Ontario as an early summer apple. The tree grows to be a large size, and is very productive; one at Maplehurst, forty years planted, gave a yield of ten barrels in 1895, which is not unusual, so that when prices are good this apple is very remunerative. The quality is only fair, and very tart; but the large size of the fruit, and its deep crimson color, often covered with a thin whitish bloom, makes it very salable.

During the last four years New York State and Ontario have been producing this apple in such quantity that after the first two or three pickings the price has been very low and we have been compelled to seek for a distant market. The apple is so tender that it is impossible to land it in the British markets in good condition except by cold storage, held at a temperature of about 33 F., a condition which it has hitherto



FIG. 2360. RED ASTRACHAN APPLE.

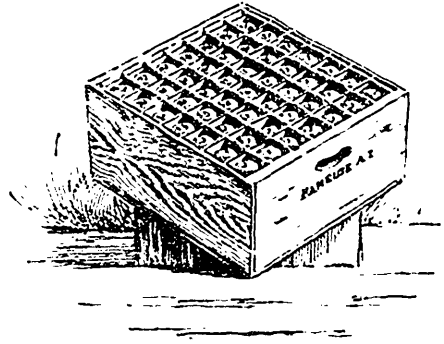


FIG. 2361. COCHRAN FRUIT CASE.

been difficult to ensure. A special officer, however, has been charged with this work by the Hon. Sidney Fisher, and we hope for complete success during the coming season.

A MAGNIFICENT CROP OF ASTRACHANS

NEVER before has the promise of this variety been so fine as at present. One hundred and twenty large trees of it at Maplehurst are almost breaking down with the weight of clean, beautiful fruit, and all the finest are destined for export. They will be packed in cases with fillers, similar to the Cochran Case (Fig. 2361), only smaller, and weighing about 40 lbs. each. Each apple will have its own separate compartment, and all the apples in a case will be selected to one size. Astrachans will go in about three sizes in all, viz.: 2 $\frac{1}{4}$, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter. The cases cost about 20 cents each, and four of them will hold about the same quantity as an apple barrel. Several shippers will join us in making up car-lots of these tender apples, beginning early in August.