

FRUIT TRADE WITH BRITAIN.



THE following extract from the *Commercial Bulletin*, No. 4, issued by the Finance Department, Ottawa, will be of interest to our readers : The High Commissioner, in his annual report, called attention to the opening, in the London Market, for a large trade in canned goods and dry and evaporated fruits, and gives the following useful information :

Dried and canned fruits are increasing greatly in popularity in Great Britain, especially during the time when fresh fruit is not available. An immense trade is done in apples, which are cut into rings and dried. They are sold at about ten cents per lb. This seems to afford an opportunity for an extensive trade.

Apples are done up in another way in the United States, somewhat similar to what are known as the Normandy Pippins ; that is, the core is taken out and the fruit dried. If proper regard was paid to the preparation of goods, so as to ensure their being of the finest quality, I have no doubt that a considerable trade would soon develop. These are put up in boxes, and are sold at ten cents per lb. There is a considerable market in the winter season for tinned apples in syrup. The apples are cut into quarters and the cores taken out ; they are largely used for puddings and sauces, and for similar purposes. The supply is said to be in no way equal to the demand, and, in order to show that the trade is a profitable one, I may say that the wholesale price for tins containing a gallon is 1s. 6d. There are many varieties of apples not good for keeping purposes, and which will not carry well, and these would certainly be available for the initiation of such a trade as that referred to.

It is hardly necessary to speak of the apple trade which is done in barrels. It has assumed immense proportions during the last few years, and is capable of indefinite extension. There is a large annual consumption of apples in this country, and the seasons here are so uncertain that a good one only comes every few years. Canadian apples have already established a reputation in this country, and bring a higher price than those from the United States. The selection of the apples, and the packing, has greatly improved, but there is still room for the work to be better done.

Canned peaches are also very popular, and immense quantities are sold every year. Considering the numbers that are generally produced in Canada, and that so many are often wasted because of insufficient local demand, it seems to me that this is a matter also which is worthy of attention in the Dominion. The fruit is put up in tins with syrup, and is sold in 3-lb. tins for about 16 to 18 cents wholesale. There is no necessity for quick transport in this case, the goods of the best quality arrive here in February, having come from California by sailing ship. It is said that the maturing of the sugar imparts an excellent flavor to the fruit, and that altogether the article is improved by the few months which it takes to reach this country in the way I have mentioned.