

tain on the fleece at show time. The first clipping, or leveling the back, will take off but little wool, but the alteration made in the appearance of the lamb will at once show the benefit. As in older sheep, so in lambs, the progress of proper preparation of the fleece is one that has to be done by degrees. Not once but many times are the best shown specimens gone over, and hence the need that everyone should have the same liberty of action."

## Butter-Making Contests in Ireland

Butter-making contests are among the special features of many agricultural fairs in Great Britain. They attract large crowds of sightseers and arouse the keenest interest and enthusiasm. One of these contests was conducted at a spring show held a couple of months ago at Belfast, Ireland, and during the two days of the contest there were large crowds of onlookers. *The Farmers' Gazette* (Dublin) gives the following description of the contest and the scale of points upon which the awards were made, which will be found of interest here, inasmuch as a similar contest is to take place at the Toronto Industrial Fair this year, the first instance where a competition of this kind has ever taken place on this continent:

"Both contests were confined to females, and for the first, which took place on Thursday, there were twelve competitors—six of them from Scotland, and the remaining six from various parts of Ulster. The conditions attaching to the contest were that the competitors would be supplied with the necessary appliances, and would be allowed two and a half hours from the time the cream was given out to them until they had finally finished up. Provision was made for the inspection of the butter while in the buttermilk, and in the brine, and also while on the butter worker before being pressed, and it was stipulated that each churning should be made up as follows:

1. 1 lb. roll under six inches long.
2. Plain brick under six inches long.
3. An ornamental brick under six inches long.

"The remainder of the churning in fancy designs.

"The points upon which the competitions were decided were as follows:

Preparation and cleaning of churn and utensils....	10
Use of thermometer.....	5
Time for churning.....	7
Granular condition of butter when churned.....	15
Washing churn.....	5
Condition when on worker.....	5
Working and making up.....	10
Quality of butter, including color.....	15
Weight of butter made.....	10
General style of doing work.....	10
Appearance of competitor as regards dress.....	8

Total.....100"

## Marketing Small Fruits.

A Michigan fruit-grower has this to say in regard to the packing and marketing of small fruits: "As to packages, we have always used the one-bushel crate, and quart baskets of good quality and full size. This year we intend making up about 200 half-bushel crates, believing that they will prove to be more satisfactory; anyway they will come in handy as gift crates and for shipping. We use full quart packages because we believe this is the only honest way. That style of basket having the bottom extending into the basket does not hold a full quart, and this is true of some others. The first named are largely used by shippers who ship to Northern or distant markets; we notice also that a supply dealer located in the Michigan fruit belt has the same style of basket in stock, but whether they are of the same size, or are very extensively used by Michigan shippers, we know not. This style of package is a handy one because no

trays are needed in the crates, but there is certainly no excuse for making them under-sized, except that a shipper may receive pay for something he does not ship. It does not seem to me as though a shipper using such packages could create any special demand or preference for his fruit. One thing we are sure of, we couldn't use such baskets, though we were an extensive shipper, and could work up a good trade while using them! Good measure and a good quality of fruit in exchange for good money is our motto.

"Since writing the above we have compared one of these baskets with, as we term them, false bottoms, with the baskets used by us, and found somewhat to our surprise that there was but little if any difference in the size. Either must be filled about one-half inch above the rim to contain a quart. It has always been our practice to heap each basket up well, and we believe that very few crates have left our yards that would not contain a bushel of berries by weight; however, we shall be more careful this season to see that each basket is "heaping," knowing that heaping is necessary to make a full quart."

## San Jose Scale Again

The San José Scale Commission has finished its work in the Niagara fruit belt, and is now at work in Essex and Kent counties. The Niagara belt may be divided into two sections in so far as the attitude of the fruit-growers to the scale is concerned. In what may be called Niagara proper, or in the section nearest the Falls, the general feeling is that the pest should be let alone. This view is very well put by a fruit-grower from Niagara-on-the-Lake whom we met the other day. His view was that, while the scale would eventually prove destructive to the trees, yet in this northern climate the process of destruction was so slow that the trees would bear fruit for a number of years after they had become infested with the scale. He pointed out, for example, that the average life of a peach tree was about fifteen years, and that from the time the scale began to infest the tree it would take nearly the whole of that time, or a large portion of it, for the scale to completely destroy the tree, and in the meantime the owner could reap the benefit of several crops of peaches and have nearly as much value from his trees in fruit as if they were not infested with the scale. If this contention is founded on fact it furnishes a good reason for the "let-it-alone" policy which the fruit-growers in the section referred to advocate.

On the other hand, the fruit-growers in that part of the Niagara belt known as the Grimsby section just as strongly advocate the "stamp-it-out" policy, and uphold the recent Act of the Ontario Legislature in regard to the inspection and destruction of all trees infested with the scale, with the exception that larger compensation should be allowed where trees are destroyed, as the following resolution, passed at a recent meeting of the fruit-growers of that section held at Stony Creek, will show:

"Moved by E. D. Smith, seconded by M. Pettit, that, whereas, a number of people whose orchards have been condemned as infested by the San Jose scale are urging the Government of Ontario to discontinue the operation of the 'San Jose Scale Act' as amended at the last sitting of the Ontario Legislature; and whereas, the great majority of fruit growers are satisfied that the said act is framed in their best interests and if carried out and the condemned orchards burned immediately will in a very short time rid this province of this, the most insidious and destructive pest of the fruit-grower, and whereas, the fruit industry is of much greater importance than usually supposed, being second only to the live stock and dairy interests; and whereas, every owner of a shade tree, ornamental shrub, bush or vine is equally interested in the destruction of this most pernicious pest, which attacks every deciduous plant and if left unchecked in a few years would entirely destroy the beauty of any city or town by destroying all the living trees and shrubs; and whereas, all of this vast interest is threatened with extermination sooner or later if this destructive scale is not either exterminated now