

The appointment of judges at the larger fairs is now practically under the control of the breeders, as they recommend the judges in the different classes, and who are invariably selected by the fair managers. We have no special fault to find with this plan. It has been suggested, however, that the practice of selecting judges at the breeders' conventions in the open meeting is not the best one to follow. Better results might be obtained if a special committee were appointed to recommend a set of judges to the members. Often a person is nominated for judge in the open meeting, to whom, because he is there in person, no one cares to raise any objection, though he may have good grounds for doing so.

If it were possible to select some thoroughly competent and reliable individual with no axes to grind or interests to serve but the welfare of the exhibition and its influence upon the masses as an educational institution, who could be relied upon to act for several years in succession, this lack of uniformity in methods of judging might be largely overcome. And in addition, if every judge would give his reasons for making the different awards, the fair could be made of greater educational value to the onlooker and the person seeking information.

We have dealt with this question at greater length than we at first intended, but not too great considering the importance of the question from an educational point of view. The educational feature of the fall fair must predominate if the exhibition is to grow and fill the place it is designed to fill in the community. Unless this is kept to the front the fall fair is apt to degenerate into a mere distributor of prize money to successful exhibitors. This whole question is worth discussing, and we would be glad to hear from interested parties in regard to it.

The Apple Trade

There has been some difference of opinion expressed this season as to whether Ontario has a large apple crop or not. From what we learn of the prices being offered at country points for winter fruit there cannot be much doubt as to this question. Ontario has a good crop of apples and an extra big one at that. When, however, from 40 to 75c. per bbl. are the ruling figures for good sound winter fruit it is safe to conclude that the farmer's orchard is well loaded and that an abundant supply must be forthcoming. One dollar per barrel is considered an extra high price this fall, whereas last year the average price for the fruit in the orchard was about double that figure. But then apples were few and far between on the trees last year, while this season the very reverse is the case.

Many farmers are, no doubt, asking themselves the question, will it pay to bother with the fruit at these prices? The best way to find this out is to make a little comparison. Suppose, for example, a tree that yielded one barrel of good, sound fruit last year will yield three this season. Then we have about an equality in the total cash receipts from each tree and if it paid to sell apples at \$2 per bbl. last year it should pay this season when the yield is three times greater even at about 70c. per bbl. But if the apples are not sold at this lower figure to the packers, what is to be done with them? It will never pay to allow all this good fruit to go to waste. Something must be done with it, and we believe that the more of it that can be exported at this low figure, providing the sample is good and no frauds have been practised in the packing, the better. If we can send over to Great Britain this fall a large supply of good sound fruit properly packed that can be sold at a low figure it will serve to introduce Canadian fruit to a wider circle of consumers and help to enlarge the market for the future.

We are not without a precedent for the development of a trade in this way. The very large demand at the present time for Canadian cheese is to no small extent due to the fact that in the earlier history of this industry there were seasons of plenty when our factories were compelled to sell their

output at such low figures as to enable old country dealers to dispose of it at rates away below its real value. This had the effect of introducing Canadian cheese into the homes of people who had never tried its good qualities. But being cheap they gave it a trial and have been more or less regular customers ever since.

So an abundant apple crop may be of distinct advantage in enlarging the market in Great Britain for Canadian fruit if it is properly managed. But to accomplish anything definite in this line only honest and careful methods of packing should be followed. The fruit should be selected, graded, branded and put up in the best possible condition for export. If this is done and the fruit placed upon the British market at a price at which more people can afford to buy, it will serve to introduce our apples to a larger circle of consumers and have a wholesome effect in retrieving to some extent the reputation we have lost for honesty and fair dealing in our fruit trade. Here is an opportunity for our fruit growers and dealers to show what they are made of and to greatly extend the export market for Canadian fruits.

But even if there were nothing to be gained by making a special effort along the lines we have indicated, it will pay to pick, handle and pack this year's crop as carefully as possible. There are not wanting signs to show that the situation may improve somewhat later on. Large shippers are working very cautiously at the present time, and will likely do so until an approximate estimate of the crop can be formed. Some, who are reported to be good authorities, claim that this season's crop in Canada has been greatly over-estimated. Then the big wind-storm has lessened to some extent the supply of good winter fruit. It is estimated that in the Eastern States and Canada the severe gales have robbed the orchards of from 10 to 15 per cent. of their sound fruit. All this must have some effect on the market for good sound fruit later on. It is expected that the winter crop this season will be about two weeks late.

A factor that is working against higher prices for winter fruit just now is the very disastrous accounts sales that are arriving from shipments of early fall fruits. We hear of shipments that no more than paid freight and commission, and others netting from 25c. to 35c. per barrel. One or two lots of very fancy brands of fall fruit have netted \$1.25 to \$1.50 per barrel, but these are the exceptions, and the other cases mentioned are nearer the mark. The hot weather at the time of shipment and careless methods of packing are responsible for a large share of the failures in shipments of fall fruits. Returns of this character for fall fruit have been so common of late years that it is worth while to consider whether it would not be better to discontinue all shipments of early apples and confine our efforts wholly to winter varieties. It is certain that fall fruit arriving in bad condition has an injurious effect upon the sale of Canadian winter apples later on.

Two Expert Opinions

"Your Exhibition number was admirable and I am sure should do much to convince the farmers of the country of the value of 'The Farming World.'"

**Dr James Fletcher,
Entomologist and Botanist,
Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.**

"Your Exhibition number contains a great deal of interesting and attractive matter and your effort will, I feel sure, be greatly appreciated by our leading agriculturists."

**Professor Frank T. Shutt,
Chief Chemist, Dominion Experimental Farms,
Ottawa.**