



New Brunswick Fruit Growers Are Beginning to Use the Box. A Sample of Their Pack

the more graceful shape of the long box does not. The customer is inclined to think he is getting more for his money and this is no inconsiderable factor when selling in competition.

Both boxes would cost the same supposing both to be in use together. It is a fact, however, that the long box is costing our Okanagan growers fifteen cents this year, while the short box is costing our Wenatchee and Yakima competitors eight and a half cents. The causes of the difference are many and not easily removed. Because of the difference in style, our shippers are not able to secure the best possible quotations from Washington Mills, so that possibly some of the advantages of competitive manufacture are lost. The difference in the cost of the package alone removes about half the protection of the tariff on apples, thirteen cents a box. More competition for our box business might have some effect in equalizing prices. Our principal box manufacturers are quite willing to adopt the American sizes however.

No one, we think, has questioned the extra strength and rigidity of the short box due to the much greater width of sides compared to the length. Its extra strength is of advantage in handling, especially for the export market. The boxes break less, twist less and there

is not so much splitting. Of most importance, there is not so much side bulge due not only to the stronger sides but to the two-piece tops and bottoms as well. These spring more easily than the single piece tops and bottoms in use with the long box and do not bulge the sides, which may cause so much bruising when the boxes are piled, as they always should be, on their sides. We believe that the short box carries the fruit with less bruising and more safely than does the long one.

It is a great defect in the use of boxes for fruit and vegetables that so many miscellaneous sizes have been developed. There is economy in uniformity and standardization. Our principal fruit packages, the apple box, the pear box and the peach box are of three different depths, and two different lengths. To illustrate: Apple, 20x11x10 inches; pear, 18½x11x18½ inches; peach, 18½x11x4 to 5 inches.

The pear and peach boxes have been narrowed from eleven and a half inches to conform with our apple box. They hold less fruit by three to five pounds than the American packages. This handicap could be removed by adopting the Northwestern apple box, and with it the standard pear and peach boxes used by our competitors, and until recently by ourselves.

Our American competitors use boxes of the following dimensions in which the uniformity in length and width may be strikingly noticed: Apple, 18½x11½x10½ inches; pear and crab apple, 18½x11½x8½ inches; peach, pear, plum, and tomato box, 18½x11½x4 to 5 inches.

There is no question of adopting both boxes. No advantage in any market, nor any convenience in the packing, could compensate for the added cost and inconvenience. We do not think our growers would even consider such a thing; they have had too much experience for that.

ABSOLUTE UNIFORMITY IMPOSSIBLE

Fruit packages cannot be absolutely uniform in all dimensions because as great a weight of soft fruit, such as peaches, cannot be packed as in the case of apples and on the other hand the smaller packages would be far too costly for the hard fruit. There is no reason from the packer's standpoint, however, why boxes should not be uniform in length and width. This effects economy in several important particulars. It suits the manufacturer better because all the top and bottom pieces are the same length and width for all three boxes. Then defective apple box sides and ends can be cut down to make the same pieces for the pear box or for the peach box without sawing anything off the end. Then, again, surplus apple box sides and ends may be split to make peach and tomato sides and ends. Lumber for box material is cut to fewer sides as well. All this makes for economy in manufacture.

HANDLING SIMPLIFIED

More uniform sizes also simplify handling in the warehouse and in making up the package. This is a considerable item where box shooks are handled and where fruit packages have to be made up rapidly. Convenience in loading cars is even a greater factor in saving expense. Packages must be of the same length to load well in mixed cars. Different lengths usually require extra bracing and the cost may run several dollars a car higher.

It is quite true that the same saving in handling can be had by lengthening the pear and peach box to correspond with the apple box. It is generally conceded, however, that a peach box twenty inches long would be too fragile to carry safely; the apple box would have to be shortened instead. In the Northwest standard box, 18½x11½x10½, all the apples are packed on the side; they carry quite well and the appearance is much better than if packed stem or blossom up. The danger of cutting is eliminated. The lining paper for apple and pear boxes could be cut to