

FRUITS FOR EUROPE.



PROBABLY England offers the best possible market for American fruits if they can be shipped there in proper condition, and at an expense not so great as to absorb all profits. Comparatively few fruits of any kind are raised there, except in the gardens of the wealthy, and the markets are supplied with a limited number of apples, pears, peaches and apricots by a few professional fruit growers. The English public like fruits as well as the American, but the supply has never been large enough to satisfy the demand. Some of the smaller fruits, such as strawberries, gooseberries, currants and raspberries are raised by all of the poor farmers, and they supply the market pretty well. But outside of these small berries, the English markets seldom display for sale the great varieties of fruits so commonly raised in America.

Australia has lately entered the market to supply England with fruits, and fast steamers are engaged in carrying apples from that island to the home country. With the steady growth of Australian horticulture, it will be only a short time before large quantities of other fruits will be sent to England, Horticulture has developed faster in the former country than the population, and the growers have to seek foreign markets to dispose of their goods. Americans have been slow to avail themselves of markets outside of their own towns and cities. This has been partly due to the large home consumption of fruits. Our towns and cities have absorbed most of the crops in the past, and growers had no reason to go elsewhere to effect profitable sales. But we are rapidly reaching a time when the markets will have to be enlarged, or fruit culture restricted. In nearly every fruit growing region the surplus of goods is increasing rapidly, and even the canning and evaporating factories cannot use up all that are raised.

The question naturally arises, What can we do to increase the demand? The answer to this question was satisfactorily made years ago when apples were first exported successfully. Since then our shipments of apples to Europe has been enormous, and the trade has been placed on a secure foundation. There is no experiment about the matter. American and Canadian apples shipped to Europe command prices sufficiently satisfactory to the growers and shippers to induce them to continue the practice. During the last few winters several attempts were made to ship Florida oranges to Europe in the same way. The results were not entirely satisfactory, but when the methods of packing and shipping are better understood, there is no doubt but our orange shipments will be nearly as large as our present export trade in apples.

Our pears and peaches have been exported only in a very limited way, and yet the market is as good for these abroad as it is for apples. American pears, peaches, plums and grapes are the finest in the world, and the English consumers would be ready buyers if they could be shipped there in the proper