

## THE FRUIT SHIPMENTS TO THE WEST

The trial shipments of fruit being made by the St. Catharines Cold Storage and Forwarding Co. are not, as some seem to suppose, being assisted by the Ontario government. Shipments made this year receive no aid and are the result of the enterprise and push of the company.

One year ago when the Government sent Prof. Reynolds to the Niagara district to secure two carloads of fruit to be forwarded to Winnipeg, the members and growers of the St. Catharines Cold Storage Co. volunteered to load a car and forward it on commission free of any expense to the Government, while Prof. Reynolds had to guarantee a fixed price for the bulk of the fruit sent in the other car. Owing to the guarantee this car cost the Government over one hundred dollars, while the St. Catharines car was sold at prices satisfactory to most of the shippers.

During the winter and early summer the growers at St. Catharines held several meetings and at last decided to arrange with some of the commission houses in Winnipeg to handle their fruit. A committee of four growers was named to assist the directors of the company to load two cars a week under the direction of the committee.

About 25 growers agreed to pack and ship their share, so that the cars would have enough fruit on the shipping days. Arrangements were made with The Ottawa Fruit Exchange, Winnipeg, to sell the fruit and to send statements to each shipper and also to send a copy of the whole to the storage company. A portion of each car was to be packed and put up in special packages, and the remainder in the regular shipping baskets. The committee has a copy of all details of the fruit and shippers in each car, giving the grade of fruit, ripeness and style of packing and packages used. To this will be attached the copy of sales and condition of car on arrival. Mr. Moore, Chief of Markets Division under the Dominion Government, has been placing thermographs in most of the cars, and the records of the temperatures during the trip will also be attached to the statements.

Good results are looked forward to from these records. At date of information 16 cars have gone forward. Shipments have increased

to three cars per week, and two carloads have been sold to go as far west as Calgary, and other sales will follow.

Some of the results have been disappointing and others very satisfactory. The largest shippers appear to be sanguine that the venture will be very successful on the whole and that they will be able to locate the weak points which have caused low prices in some shipments and to some growers.

The railway commission induced the railway companies to give transportation to anyone the growers might choose to accompany a few cars to test the efficiency of the several makes of refrigerator cars. Inspector Carey, of the Fruit Division, was chosen to accompany the first, a G. T. R. refrigerator, on September 8, and Mr. A. D. Broderick accompanied the one sent on September 15. Mr. Broderick goes out solely in the interest of growers, receiving nothing for his expenses or time, but it is felt by the growers that the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association or the Ontario government should bear his expenses.

Later in the season ventilated cars will be tried. The sending to the west of such large quantities of fruit will help to stiffen prices here and prevent gluts and over-shipments to our own markets.

A report from The Ottawa Fruit and Produce Exchange, of Winnipeg, of the car which reached there September 20 states that the fruit was in great demand and sales made as follows: Pears, 12-quart basket 65 cents, trays 95 cents, and boxes \$2.30; tomatoes, 40 to 50 cents; peaches, 70 cents; grapes, 30 to 43 cents. The report also says that the cars are arriving in much better condition than they did earlier in the season.

The Canadian Horticulturist is becoming an important publication and must be a great help to fruit growers and lovers of flowers.—(Mr. Thomas Kerfoot, Minesing, Ont.)

Congratulations on the greatly improved condition of The Horticulturist. It is very noticeable.—(J. Thos. Murphy, Simcoe, Ont.)

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