

about 6,000 barrels of Nova Scotia apples on September 22nd in splendid condition. Although landed in good condition, some of the soft varieties went off very rapidly. The trade makes some objections to receiving varieties such as Astrachans, as they claim that these injure the reputation of Canadian apples. This emphasizes the fact that fall varieties should be picked early and shipped in boxes rather than barrels if satisfactory returns are to be expected.

Mr. Driscoll also reports the arrival on the S. S. Iona of 1424 barrels of apples and 46 boxes of pears. The apples were of many varieties, and arrived in satisfactory condition, but the pears were very inferior, and both consignees would prefer not to receive such shipments.

In his bulletin on the "Export Pear Trade," which may be had free of charge on application to Mr. MacKinnon, of the department, at Ottawa, Mr. MacKinnon has summarized as follows: "The exporter of pears must never lose sight of the fact that in the British markets he has to compete with the best fruits in the world; that the French exporters have attained almost to perfection in their system of grading and packing, that the Californian exporters place upon the market annually thousands of cases filled with practically perfect fruit, of larger size and excellent appearance; and that, therefore, only the most rigid exclusive grading will result in the selection of such Canadian pears as will win a place in the esteem of the public in competition with the shipments already familiar to them. One

further fact is of the importance, namely, that pears are sold individually or by the dozen, after passing through the hands of the importer and wholesaler; that each individual pear which comes from Canada is scrutinized first by the retailer, before being placed on show, and then by the consumer when it is purchased. The presence of a few pears in unsatisfactory condition reduces the retailer's profit, and as a consequence renders him less anxious to repeat orders for fruit from the same source. The Canadian exporter should therefore, 1. Grade carefully so as to have only one size in a package, and to exclude rigidly all under-sized or defective fruits. 2. Pack carefully in uniform packages plainly marked with the name and address of the shipper, the variety and grade of the fruit, and the word 'Canada' always occupying a prominent position."

#### FRUIT DAMAGED IN LOADING.

Fruit Inspector P. J. Carey, writing of his observations at the port of Montreal, reports to the Fruit Division that shippers make a great mistake in holding off shipping until the last moment, with the result that often the half or more of the entire shipment of handled, even from the cars, after 8 o'clock the last night of loading. When this is the case it is impossible to handle otherwise than roughly, consequently the fruit is often damaged more by the handling the last night loading on the ship than it is the rest of the week.

## Question Drawer

### CUTTING BACK PEACH TREES.

SIR.—When should peach trees be pruned or cut back.

JOHN THOMPSON, Cowal, Elgin Co., Ont.

The usual time for pruning the peach tree is in spring, just before the growth starts.

This is the best time if the vigor of the tree is the chief consideration. If, however, the object is to thin the fruit for the current year and develop fruit buds for the year following, the cutting back may be done in June, when the young fruit has set.