

The Markets.

Apple Markets.

Messrs. W. Dickhuth & Son, of Hamburg, write us as follows:—

Without any of your esteemed favors to apply to, we are to-day in the position to give you reliable news about the prospects of the apple crops in Germany and Austria, and can inform you that we shall have very few apples all round, which will hardly be sufficient to supply the apple-wine manufacturers. Apples for table-use we shall hardly have any and will have to depend upon apples being shipped from your side.

Herewith we give you the particulars from the different sections:

Steiermark,	$\frac{1}{2}$ of a crop
Ober & Nieder-Oesterreich,	$\frac{1}{2}$ " "
Tirol,	$\frac{1}{3}$ " "
Switzerland,	failure
Saxonia,	" "
Bohemia,	nearly failure
Galizien,	" "
Thuringia,	medium crop
Hannover,	" "
Altenlande,	$\frac{1}{2}$ of a crop
Bavaria,	$\frac{1}{3}$ " "
Württemberg,	$\frac{1}{3}$ " "

From all above places no table apples are to be expected to be sent to the consuming cities and towns. From Belgium and North of France we learn they expect a full crop and Holland $\frac{1}{2}$ of a crop. These countries ship their apples to England with the exception of Holland from which country also some apples will go to the South of Germany for manufacturing the much consumed apple-wine.

As stated above we shall have to depend upon shipments of apples for table-use from your country and therefor can advise you to make freely, shipment of your first keeping apples as soon your winter apples are ready for shipping. Ship no early apples. We should have written to you sooner, but we wanted to give you perfect and reliable news, which we could not do before now.

Hamburg, 3rd Aug., 1899.

Messrs. Jas. Adam, Son & Co., of Liverpool, writes:—

As is our usual custom, we once more take the opportunity of offering a few remarks on the outlook for American and Canadian apples for the coming season, as viewed from present aspects. In doing this we naturally have to take into account the extent of our own and

Continental crops, at the same time these are not as important as is generally supposed, for the simple reason that both American and Canadian apples have become a necessity to the British public, and when once they make their appearance, preference is always shown for them.

First, then, as regards our home crop, we learn, on summarising the comprehensive reports published in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, that there seems to be a general scarcity of fruit this year. We need not go into details, but in some districts there is said to be what may be considered an average yield, while in others—and these by far the larger proportion—the crop is decidedly under the average, which, in the aggregate, means that the marketable quantity of a certainty will only be moderate.

On the Continent, however, things appear to be somewhat different, as, from enquiries made, we understand there is a good crop in Holland, Germany and Belgium, while in France, also, there seems to be a fair quantity of fruit. Assuming, therefore, that these reports are reliable, it would appear as if the deficiency in our own crop would be, to some extent, made up by the better yields on the Continent. Still, for all that, we do not apprehend much opposition, even from these combined sources; in fact, they can only affect Falls in any case, as the English fruit especially is not of very good keeping quality, and from all accounts shipments of Fall varieties are not likely to be on a very large scale this year.

Coming, then, to Winters, the most important point for consideration is the extent of supplies available, and as this will be better known by operators themselves, it remains for them to decide as to how far they are justified in operating. So far as we can see, the prospects are very favourable, especially if (as we are led to believe) the crop is not very abundant, and we look forward to a mutually satisfactory season.

Needless to say, the prices, after all, will depend very largely upon the quality of the fruit, and we rely upon shippers sending only their best stock forward, remembering that the cost of transport, etc., is identically the same on an inferior as on a good barrel. The practice of "topping" should rigidly be avoided, as honest packing always pays in the long run; and to those of our friends who have already established brands on this market we would point out the necessity of keeping up the standard of their packing if good results are to be ensured.

