

METHODS OF HANDLING BASKET FRUITS.

The climax basket is used largely throughout the fruit regions of the northeastern part of the continent in marketing summer or tender fruits. In Canada the 6-quart climax basket is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, $15\frac{1}{2}$ by 7 inches at the top, and $13\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the bottom, holds from 6 to 10 pounds of fruit, and is used largely for distant shipments of cherries, gooseberries, currants, plums, peaches, and grapes. The 11-quart climax basket is $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, $18\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 inches at the top, and $10\frac{1}{2}$ by 6 inches at the bottom, contains from 15 to 20 pounds of fruit, and is used with shipments of cherries, plums, peaches, tomatoes, vegetables, pears, and apples. Larger baskets, 15-quart and 16-quart in size, are used for cantaloupes; smaller baskets, 4-quart in size, are sometimes used with plums and grapes.

The climax baskets have many advantages as well as disadvantages. The former may be summed up in cheapness, simplicity in packing, reduction in handling between picking and packing, exhibition of fruit when offered for sale and ease with which customers may carry away a purchase. Their disadvantages include fragility, with severe breakage, pilferage and loss in shipment, difficulty in making attractive packs, poor protection to fruit contained with resulting bruises and injuries, difficulty of handling in large quantities and difficulty in satisfactory earloading.

When the Dominion Precooling and Experimental Fruit Storage Warehouse at Grimsby was put in operation in 1914, it was necessary to meet the last two problems, since the fruit to be received for shipment in the Niagara district is packed in baskets, and the old practice of carrying baskets from the growers' drays and stacking had to be supplanted by improved methods. The fact that in precooling, the fruit packages must be held up a space from the floor to give the cold air a chance to circulate throughout the fruit, and the task of receiving and shipping several thousand baskets daily, keeping different shippers' stocks of the various kinds and grades of fruit separate, made this need of improvement imperative. The purpose of this circular is to show how these conditions were met and to describe the solution of the difficulties.

Four Swivel Wheel Trucks.

By using several types of four-wheeled slatted-platform trucks, their merits were combined in a composite which produced the platform truck with four swivel castors shown in our illustrations and the diagrams 1 and 2 on page 9. To accommodate both 11-quart and 6-quart baskets and various other fruit packages efficiently, and still retain a size convenient for passing through corridors and doors, a length of 5 feet 6 inches and a width of 3 feet 2 inches was adopted as standard for the platform proper. The end racks extend out about 1 inch from the end of the platform, are made from 1-inch gas pipe, and are 2 feet, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches higher than the surface of the platform. They are securely bracketed to the body of the truck, so as to give sufficient strength for handling loads.

The platform is made from eight birch slats $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick, and two outside strips $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick, spaced $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches apart, and supported on a birch frame made from $1\frac{1}{2}$ by 5-inch material, having four cross bed-pieces of the same material.

The importance of having four swivel wheels, or castors, has been made apparent at all times, since in handling from one to six earloads of fruit per day, it is neces-