

GROWING TOMATOES FOR THE ENGLISH MARKET.



IN view of the failure of the cold storage apartments, our first venture in shipping tomatoes and other fruits to England gives us no data for concluding as to the advisability of making further consignments next season. We believe that there is something in it for us yet, providing the steamship companies provide satisfactory accommodation. No doubt the Dominion will take this matter up in earnest next year in the interest of the growers.

The following item written for the Montreal Trade Bulletin, by an English correspondent, will be of general interest :—

With regard to Canada shipping tomatoes, I have not seen the fruit, and do not know of what variety the shipments have consisted ; but they will have to be of very fine quality to meet the competition. Just about from now on, some very fine fruit from the Dominion might do fairly well, if our prices agree with shippers' ideas, as supplies are falling off from all quarters. But if they are to come during the summer they would have to be bought for next to nothing on spot to pay. Our market is now higher than it has been for some time, and only yesterday Lisbon tomatoes sold in half boxes as low as 1s. 6d., while the highest range was up to 6s. 6d for exceptionally fine quality. They can be bought in the shops for from 2d. to 3d. a pound, while during the summer they have sold at from 1d. to 2d. The last tomatoes are those grown from English seed, and these are largely imported from Spain, which has taken to buying seed here and growing immense quantities vendable in the flush of the season as low as 2d. retail, and really fine fruit. The Channel Islands go in big for this business, and Jersey sends us literally thousands of tons annually, while France, Spain and Portugal are powerful competitors of the army of people who have arisen in this country to produce the fruit under glass. The supply has created the demand and the public having been educated to eat tomatoes, do so abundantly. But they have also learned to be moderate in their ideas of value. If Canadians can grow good tomatoes *à l'anglaise* to sell in our season, retail, at a slightly higher figure, all well ; if not, they must keep out of it.

Origin of the Ben Davis.—The Ben Davis apple was brought originally from North Carolina along with a lot of other seedling apples. The Davis family moved to Kentucky and set the original Davis orchard in Butler county. The Hill family moved to Illinois and took along some grafts from the Kentucky orchard. The apple proving valuable, the question naturally came up as to what the apple should be named, and the answer came, "Ben Davis, for it was Ben Davis who brought the seedling sprout from North Carolina." This apple is no doubt planted over a wider section of the country than is any other variety. A part of the original orchard is still in bearing conditions.—Free Press, Farm and Garden.