

tions attended well to the icing. With increase of business, so that the icing of cars becomes a regular instead of an occasional duty, there is reason to expect that it will be better attended to in future. The same is true of despatch. A large volume of freight business in perishable fruits is therefore likely to correct present deficiencies in the

transport system. But with the fruit growers and shippers nothing less than co-operation in packing and shipping will remove the defects in that part of the undertaking. There must be uniformity in packages, in grading, in quality of fruit, and these cannot be secured by independent action but only by cooperation.

## NOVA SCOTIA FRUIT GROWERS IN A BIG COMBINE

**D**URING the past month items have appeared in a number of leading papers announcing that the Annapolis Valley Fruit Estates, Limited, has been formed in Halifax to engage in fruit culture on a large scale in the Cornwallis and Annapolis Valleys. In addition to apples, small fruits will be cultivated as well as potatoes and other vegetables. The company will also erect a canning and vinegar plant, and a barrel and box factory for the manufacture of fruit packages.

Desiring to gain as much information as possible about this enterprise for its readers, *The Horticulturist* wrote to a number of leading Nova Scotia fruit growers asking for particulars, and to Hon. D. Mackeen, of Halifax, who was reported to be financially interested. Some interesting replies have been received. A letter from Hon. Mr. Mackeen reads as follows:

"I am not interested to any particular extent, personally, in the company to which you refer. As far as I understand, however, this company owns some 3,000 acres of more or less highly cultivated land in one of the most fruitful apple growing districts in the Annapolis Valley. I am told that the capital required for fully developing this property into a fruit growing concern has already been raised.

"At present, I understand, the company has over 20,000 apple trees, and it is proposed to put out 30,000 new trees on the property. It is estimated that the present

yield from the property will be about 20,000 barrels, and this is only a very small proportion of the company's expected product from the estates."

### FRUIT GROWERS NOT SANGUINE.

Two well known Nova Scotia fruit growers heard from do not appear to be very sanguine in regard to the success of the enterprise. The first one heard from, Mr. S. C. Parker, secretary of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association, wrote as follows:

"I would scarcely call this a cooperative scheme, rather a speculation enterprise handled by a professional promoter. The matter stands thus: A. H. Fair, an insurance agent, has secured options holding for 12 months on a block of country about two miles square, containing some 30 farms (options were secured on all save four or five, who held out). The purchase money is something like \$250,000; the other \$100,000 of capital is for plant and improvement. I presume the promoter proposes to make a stock company, and bond the concern to raise the required capital. This is one of the best farming sections in the valley, situated two miles from Berwick, directly under the North mountain, running two miles east and west, bounded by roads on three sides. Taking last year's crop as a basis a very glittering prospectus could be made. The promoter says they shipped 16,000 barrels of apples last year, which would net \$2 per barrel. The block probably grows 1,000 tons of hay annually, perhaps 20,000 bushels