

# THE FRUIT TRADE WITH THE WEST

THE MACPIERSON FRUIT CO., WINNIPEG.

The bulk of our apples commence arriving in Winnipeg from the south the latter part of July and continue coming forward until the latter part of August. The Ontario crop in season, when it has been plentiful, has always displaced them at this date.

British Columbia has sent, late in the season of different years, one or two cars of apples which have been much admired for their fine appearance but are generally regarded as lacking in flavor. A few also have been sent from Oregon and Washington Territory, but the same remarks apply to these as to the shipments from British Columbia. From all these points the apples are sent in boxes.

Pears, peaches, plums and grapes nearly all come from California. Oregon and Washington Territory also contribute some of these. Ontario, with the exception of grapes, sends such a small proportion it does not seriously affect the shipments from the other.

## THERE HAVE BEEN HEAVY LOSSES.

Shipments of Ontario fruit, always excepting grapes and apples, have succeeded so badly that we do not like to write or ever to think about them. The long list of heavy losses from badly packed fruit, put up without care or honesty and sent forward without discrimination or

knowledge of what is required on long distance shipments, is so great that it is exasperating to merely contemplate them.

All fruit is in demand that can be put on this market in good order and at fair prices. The best package to use is a subject that requires much study and one that cannot be answered within the space of an ordinary letter. Our inspector here has had a long experience both here and in Ontario and will doubtless be able to give intending shippers some valuable information along that line.

Manitoba and the Northwest Territories are for apples, and ought to be for small fruits, the best customer Ontario has. Before this can take place in small fruits there must be an entire and tremendous change in Ontario in the methods of packing and transportation. Ontario peaches or strawberries are not likely to ever be a pronounced success on this market. The same remark applies to plums.

For apples, grapes and pears it remains with the Ontario men to either hold this market or lose it just in proportion as they show themselves intelligent and enterprising in adopting up-to-date methods and when organization becomes powerful enough to compel concessions for transportation facilities that will ensure the rapid transit and proper handling of goods.

## OBSTACLES TO SUCCESS IN FRUIT GROWING

The codling moth, apple scab and caterpillars are our most serious obstacles, together with the way in which commission men buy and handle our fruit. In some cases the fruit is not fit for home market, much less for exporting.—(Daniel Durham, Lambton Co., Ont.)

The tent caterpillar has appeared earlier than usual this season, and is most in evidence at this time. Insect pests are our chief hindrances to growing fruit successfully, together with the expense of handling the fruit properly. Help is so scarce that the fruit cannot be handled in time to prevent spoiling. As a rule the farmer does not spray, and the insects get part of the crop.—(Charles J. S. Natel, Huron Co., Ont.)

The Fruit Marks Act is the most serious obstacle to successful fruit growing in our locality.—(Theo. Murray, Bruce Co., Ont.)

In this district, as in all others, the question of farm labor is the most serious drawback.—(J. W. Munro, Welland Co., Ont.)

Excessive freight rates are a serious obstacle to our fruit raising. We pay as high as 7 to 9 cents per basket to send them to London.—(Fred. Howell, Brant Co., Ont.)

People in my vicinity have not had much experience in growing fruit, and lack of proper knowledge in taking care of trees and selecting the proper kinds has been a great drawback. A great many poor quality trees have been bought and brought into the section by agents, all of

which has been a hindrance.—(J. W. Harum, Hastings Co., Ont.)

Fruit growers should be protected by law from nurserymen selling trees untrue to name. This difficulty and San Jose scale are our two greatest difficulties.—(H. S. and C. Fisher, Lincoln Co., Ont.)

The most serious drawback to successful growing of fruit in our section is the lack of action by many fruit growers. Apples are our main crop grown for export. Packages are too dear. It is a serious hindrance when the package costs nearly as much as the apples are worth.—(W. J. Bragg, Durham Co., Ont.)

Caterpillars are not so bad this year as the past two years, but there is a fly or insect which is very bad, stinging the apples and thus doing a lot of harm. We have no market to encourage fruit growers to raise fruit to sell.—(Chas. Brethour, Ontario Co., Ont.)

A great drawback to planting good orchards of apples is to get good stock to plant, as nurserymen supply you with anything but the kind you order. They give you mostly varieties that bear in the fall and which are worthless on the market.—(Thos. O'Brien, Durham Co., Ont.)

Farmers think it will not pay to spray. They have been taken in by men going around spraying and have had no results. The man who goes around spraying looks out for his own pocket.—(A. H. Crosby, York Co., Ont.)

The want of a better market is a great obsta-