

APPLE INSPECTION.



THE solid advantages which might accrue to Canadian fruit-growers through a proper inspection of fruit intended for export, has been twice discussed at meetings of our Association. As things now are, it is impossible to sell for cash f. o. b. to an English buyer, because he cannot be satisfied of the quality and grade until the apples have crossed the ocean and come under his personal inspection. In this way the Canadian grower or shipper is entirely at the mercy of the English buyer, who has the goods in charge.

If it is possible to plan some definite system of grading, so that a distant buyer would know, from the mere mention of the grade, just what kind of stock was being offered him, there is not the slightest doubt that apple growing in Canada would be a much more remunerative occupation than it is; for the Canadian grower could sell for cash at his own home for the full value of his stock, and a Canadian shipper would always know exactly what margin he was allowing himself on any lots he was handling.

By reference to our combined reports for the years 1890 and 1891, it will be observed that this subject has been pretty fully discussed, and that a committee was appointed to urge upon the Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion, the importance of a systematic inspection and branding of Canadian apples for export. We have drawn up an outline of the duties that would be expected of such an inspector, and defined what would be understood as meant by grades No. 1 and No. 2, expressing as nearly as possible the sense of our meeting on the subject, and submitted it to the committee. As it soon may be presented for consideration at Ottawa, we have thought best to publish the outlines of the inspector's work, in order that the committee may have the benefit of criticisms from any of our readers.

DUTIES OF THE DOMINION APPLE INSPECTOR.

- (1) To make headquarters at the most important shipping part of the Dominion, probably at Montreal, during the fall, and at Halifax during the winter months.
- (2) In the inspection of closed packages of apples, the inspector shall open out so many of the packages, say, one in ten, less or more, as shall enable him to judge fairly of the grade, and of the manner of packing.
- (3) Upon satisfying himself of the grade, he shall apply his inspector's brand, marking them "Canadian Apples, No. 1, inspected," or No. 2, as the case may be. There should be no No. 3 inspected; any such stock going forward should go without the inspector's brand.
- (4) The inspector shall have a special care to avoid branding any package, unless he is satisfied that it is honestly packed through and through. He may refuse further attention to any carload of apples, which he finds faulty in this regard; and the shipper of such carload shall forfeit the privilege of having any further attention from the inspector for the current season.
- (5) The inspector shall hold himself in readiness to inspect all fruit within one or two days after receiving notice, and engage a sufficient number of assistants to accomplish the work speedily, without delaying the loading of a cargo.