

fruit is large, sometimes very large, yellowish, oblong, somewhat conic, acid or sub-acid with slight sweetness, rather coarse in texture. When left upon the tree till fully ripe it is said to have a fine melon flavor, but then it ceases to be a long keeper. In quality it is not quite like any apple I know. It may, certainly, be rated as second quality for eating and, I hope, first for cooking. But few of the best commercial apples of this continent are of first quality as dessert apples. Its great fault is its color, though this does not prevent its being in active demand in all the Russian markets; it is the color to show bruises, yet it has the name of being a good shipping apple. At Warsaw it rarely keeps past Christmas. At Moscow, Mr. Shroeder cautiously says, till January or February. In Central Russia it was often said till March and, I think, even April was even mentioned. I doubt if it will prove a much better keeper than our Fameuse.

How long an apple keeps depends very largely upon how it is kept. The Russians handle their fruit, pack it and keep it, with more care than we do. They seem to look upon an apple as a living thing to be kept alive as long as possible. If allowed to ripen on the tree it has a rich melon flavor but then it will not keep. All apples in Russia picked for a distant market are picked rather earlier than we should pick them. When we arrived at Saratof, on September 11th, the apples were all picked and shipped to Moscow. At Tula, on September 18th, Antonovka was in huge piles in the orchards five feet wide, covered with basswood bark matting. At Orel we find what has not been shipped in an open shed in layers with straw between them.

This tree, on account of its good name and its good growth in nursery, is sure to become largely planted in this country. Its success will depend partly upon its suitability to our soil, but, and mainly, perhaps to the length of time it keeps under our method of picking, packing and shipping.

Has the Antonovka run into varieties like so many other apples by seedling production? The answer to this question was usually in the negative, yet with one or two exceptions, and at Tula, an apple was shown to us as the Doukavoya which