

the Fruit Marks Act. Mr. McNeill, Chief of the Fruit Division, Ottawa, in reporting that these men were convicted, says that present demand points to bright prospects for a large and permanent trade for fruit that can be shipped through Georgian Bay ports to the Northwest and that it is not in the interests of the fruit growers to have this trade jeopardized by carelessness or fraud on the part of a few packers.

Fruit Notes

It has not been definitely decided when the Minister of Agriculture will call the Dominion Conference of Fruit Growers, but presumably it will be some time in February or early in March. The delegates will be called from the different provinces in about the following proportions: Prince Edward Island, 2; Nova Scotia, 4; New Brunswick, 2; Quebec, 4; Ontario, 9; Manitoba, 1; Saskatchewan, 1; Alberta, 1; British Columbia, 4. In addition, it is probable that there will be one fruit expert representing the provincial government and provinces interested. The secretaries of the different provincial fruit growers' associations have been notified, so that should there be any subjects on which they would like to instruct delegates they will have an opportunity of doing so at their annual meetings.

Mr. Maxwell Smith, Dominion Fruit Inspector for the Province of British Columbia, writes that a very large proportion of the apples arriving from southern points up to date this season have been condemned for codling moth. Scarcely a year passes but Ontario shippers are induced to send apples to British Columbia, and it very seldom happens that these apples successfully pass the pest inspectors, which, of course, entails a serious loss upon the shippers. It is necessary, to enter British Columbia, that the fruit be absolutely free from codling moth, a condition that can scarcely be met in ordinary years by Ontario fruit.

Record time was made in the shipment of fruit made recently by the St. Catharines Forwarding Co., which Mr. P. J. Carey accompanied to Winnipeg. The trip from St. Catharines to Winnipeg was made in four days and 20 hours. The shipment consisted of pears, peaches, grapes, tomatoes and a few apples. Mr. Carey reports that everything was in good condition on arrival and encouraging sales were made. It was the first shipment of peaches for the season. They were somewhat immature but sold readily at \$1.25 a case. With care and fair transportation facilities, it is claimed the most tender fruits can be put on the Winnipeg market and sold at a profit in large quantities. Defective packing and improper selection are said to be the chief causes of the slow progress in bringing the merits of Ontario fruits to the front.

The blueberry crop in the neighborhood of Kenora (Rat Portage) amounted this year to about 155 tons, the price varying from 7 to 10 cents per pound.—(A. McNeill, Fruit Division, Ottawa.

Mrs. W. Keith, of Newmarket, who recently purchased bulbs to the value of \$1.12 from J. A. Simmers, of Toronto, through seeing Mr. Simmers' advertisement in *The Horticulturist*, has been sent a handsome premium by *The Horticulturist*. We give premiums to all our readers who purchase from advertisers.

The Tomato Situation

The Grantham vegetable growers held a special meeting on October 14 to take action on the tomato situation for the season of 1906, as some of the factories try to secure contracts when paying the growers off at the end of the season. A large number of growers were present.

The results of this season's work were considered and all were unanimous in agreeing to stick together. A committee was appointed to keep in touch with the situation and be prepared to take any needed action.

A Secret of High Prices

E. H. WARTMAN, DOMINION FRUIT INSPECTOR, MONTREAL.

Canadian fruit growers should know a few facts relating to the transportation of California plums via Montreal to Glasgow. I had the pleasure of inspecting five standard three-box crates California Tragedy plums out of a car of 1,130 crates. Each plum was well wrapped in soft paper, well graded as to size and quality, three plums deep. After inspecting these five crates to the bottom I decided they were in perfect condition.

News of this kind to shippers serves as a warning to those who have the very responsible position of looking after the temperatures of these chambers aboard ocean liners. A shipment went forward last season and landed in such perfect condition that the fruit demanded 10d. or 20 cents per pound over the counter. This fruit usually sells for one cent per pound or 60 cents per bushel in California. When we consider 20 cents per pound, or \$12 per bushel on the other side, it is evident some one must be reaping a great harvest. But the little secret should be better known among our growers. The fruit is picked at the proper time and most beautifully wrapped and packed. It is placed in cool air and kept there to its journey's end. All this may seem a lot of trouble and expense, but it is a most perfect system, and he who practices it will be well remunerated.

I like boxes very much, and think them a better package for early apples than barrels. I think too that the best winter apples should sell to better advantage in boxes, but the old country trade seems prejudiced in favor of barrels.—(R. A. Thomas, Barrie, Ont.

I enjoy *The Horticulturist* very much and do not wish to discontinue it.—(Adam Brown, Annapolis, Ont.