

Speaking upon American exports recently, at a meeting of the Eastern New York Horticultural Society, held in the city of New York, Mr. A. S. Baker, managing director of the International Cold Storage and Lightering Company, of Southampton, England made the following interesting references to this subject:

"You ask me what do I recommend. I say, abolish the barrel altogether. It will pay. Why? In the first place, you will save 20 per cent. of your freight rates. Now, you know on ships you do not pay for weight; you pay for measurement. The difference in stowing between a box containing one bushel of apples and a barrel is so great that you will save at the very least 20 per cent. cubic measurement, thus reducing your freight bills very considerably. There is another advantage about the box. The apples carry better; they get on to the market in better condition. They

"This same box that I describe, packed with such quality of apples as exist in this country, is uniformly worth on the London market fifteen shillings (\$3.75). Some of you will remember the returns, and say that you only get eleven shillings (2.75) for your barrels. Gentlemen, this is something for you to think over. Which do you want, eleven shillings for your clumsy barrel of apples, or fifteen shillings for your bushel box?"

In our opinion Mr. Baker's views on the great advantages of the apple box are to be taken with considerable allowance. The writer has now been using the bushel apple box for many years for exporting fancy apples to Great Britain, and expects to continue its use for special A No. 1 fruit. Our engraving

shows the box, one of them having cover removed to show the method of packing. Every sample is wrapped in thin manilla paper, assorted in to sizes by Wartman's grader, and each box contains apples of uniform diameter. Thus, 2½-inch apples will go four layers deep, four rows wide and eight apples long, to fill a bushel box of 128 apples.

Now this box is all right for such goods, especially for high-colored Spys, Kings, Cranberry Pippins, or any such fancy varieties; but it would be absurd to pack ordinary stock in these packages—such a course would injure the trade for fancy stock, increase the number of packages to handle, and lessen the net profits.

Many people ride hobbies, and ride them to death; and we are inclined to think Mr. Baker is a little inclined that way. For ourselves, at all events, after using boxes for ten years for export to England, Scotland and Australia, we intend continuing to use the barrel for ordinary stock.

To Kill Tree Roots.

1160. SIR.—What compound or solution of strong and simple nature should I use to permanently eradicate tree roots (Lindens and Maples)? My plants last year were a failure owing to these infested and annoying roots.

Windsor.

R. V. COVENTRY.

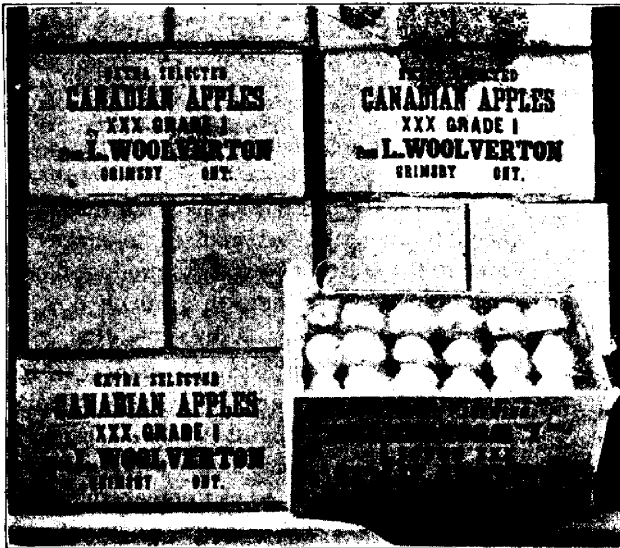


FIG. 1834. APPLE BOXES.

are altogether more salable. A box measuring 22 x 11½ to 10½ outside measurement will contain 50 lbs. of apples—or one bushel, English standard. The apples can be all wrapped in paper. There is no danger then of contamination from a bad one. There is another thing I will tell you. Apples, when stored away on board ship, contain a considerable amount of latent heat which manifests itself in the middle of a barrel, and, no matter how honestly you pack the barrel, the middle will never open as bright as the top or bottom, owing to this heating on the way. With a box this need never happen; when the box is properly made, it never does. Those who have to handle freight can handle a small box better, and with more care, than a barrel. The danger of bruising is reduced to a minimum, especially with the use of paper around each apple. You ask then, but will it pay us to go to this extra trouble? That is for yourself to decide.