

25 cents. Adding a commission of 1 cent would make the total charges 19 cents a case, leaving proceeds of 6 cents f.o.b. packing house, a sum insufficient to meet the cost of the package and packing.

SOME OPINIONS FROM ENGLAND.

Writing on the subject of Canadian tomatoes for the English market, Mr. A. W. Grindley, Chief Cargo Inspector for this Department at Liverpool, says:—

‘Canadian tomatoes, as supplied to canning factories, are not wanted here at any price. The tomato for this market must be of medium size, smooth and of cherry red colour.’

Messrs. George Monro, Limited, Covent Garden Market, London, the well known fruit and vegetable brokers, wrote on November 7 last as follows:—

‘We are aware that the question of sending tomatoes here from Canada has been considered by a good many people, and we have had several callers who have been interested, but in every case we have assured them that we could not encourage tomatoes to be sent here, especially at that time of year.

‘For one thing, the varieties grown in Canada are too large to make anything like the best prices.

‘Another reason is the journey is too long, as they never turn out well from cold storage.

‘Our experience is that fruit can be kept well in cold storage, but not vegetables. The autumn months are always the cheapest time for tomatoes here, as there are large quantities grown out of doors and under glass, when the season admits.

‘In addition to these, there are large arrivals from Holland, grown under glass, and the south of France, grown out of doors. Through the winter months we get abundant supplies from the Canary Islands, which come in in five days without the necessity of cool chambers, and they are sold throughout the winter at an average of 2d. or 2½d. per pound, being perfect in colour, size and shape, and weighing on the average about four to the pound.

‘You will, therefore, see that there is very little chance of a trade being made in them here, unless your people grow an entirely different class of tomato to any that we have seen. Our customers will not look at the larger sizes at all, trade having got well on to medium sized, smooth, firm fruit, and even if they did grow the right varieties it is a question whether they could possibly get them here in good enough colour and condition to compete with the others coming in such large quantities.’

Much more might be quoted to the same effect, and it would seem that under present conditions the export of tomatoes to Great Britain would yield no profit to the shipper.

J. A. RUDDICK,

*Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner.*