

CANADIAN APPLES AT THE EXHIBITION. A NEW SUPPLY FOR GLASGOW.

GATTONSIDE HOUSE,

Melrose, Oct. 6, 1901.

IR,—One of the advantages conferred upon the public by your International Exhibition is that it has shown us what other countries might send us if only proper communications with them were opened. Thus, whilst strolling round the Canadian Section last July, I came upon tables containing the most magnificent display of apples I ever witnessed. Entering into conversation with the gentleman in charge, he kindly explained to me the different varieties, and also allowed me to taste several, which I found to be excellent. The varieties he particularly recommended as first-rate eating apples were Alexander, Gloria Mundi, Holland pippin, Wealthy, Fameuse, Ben Davis, Mann, Spitzenburgh and Blenheim Orange. I was surprised to find that out of 50 varieties exhibited by Canada at your Exhibition, only three are as yet known in Britain. I was also struck by the fact that these apples were in excellent condition for eating in July, whilst Scottish fruiterers' supplies of American and Canadian apples finished in May.

Having a very influential friend in Toronto I wrote to him of my visit to your Exhibition, and of my discovering there 47 splendid varieties of Canadian apples as yet unimported into Britain. I gently chid him for keeping all the best Canadian apples to himself, and summoned him, as a loyal son of the empire, to give us at least, fair trade in apples, and to induce Canada to send us every variety of apple grown in the Dominion. I also pointed out that our supply of Canadian and American apples closed in May, whereas I was eating capital Canadian apples in Glasgow Exhibition in July.

My friend took my criticism so much to heart, and has so great a love both for his Scotland and for Canada, that he placed himself, without delay, in communication with one of the leading officials connected with the apple-growing industry in Canada: and I have now the pleasure of transcribing pro bono publico the letter which that official wrote to my friend in Toronto:—

“Ontario, September 20, 1901.—Dear Sir,—I have your letter of the 18th inst., inquiring why those magnificent Canadian apples are not placed for sale in Glasgow. I think I may reply that the probability is that these apples will in a short time be regularly shipped from here to Glasgow. Last year was the first season when our cold storage accommodation on shipboard was of such satisfactory character that we were able to send forward our best fruits in safety to the old country. By the ordinary methods of carriage, our fruits were frequently ruined before they arrived in the old country, and of course, could not be held any time afterwards. Last year I took advantage of the improved arrangements, and put up for the Dominion Government nearly 200 cases of apples for Glasgow Exhibition. These were held in Montreal in cold storage until the month of May, after which they were forwarded in cold storage compartments to Glasgow, and brought upon the tables from time to time as they were required. I am informed by the commissioner in charge that he could have sold large quantities of these apples in July and August at high prices to the Glasgow people. I have no doubt that an excellent trade will soon be developed in this direction.”—I am, &c.—
Ralph Richardson, in Glasgow Herald.