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Canadian Apples in the Old Country

Of the 2,500,000 barrels exported last year from America, 1,500,000 came from Canada, and were nearly all consigned to British firms. Of the apples from Canada, about 70 per cent. were grown in Ontario and 30 per cent. in Nova Scotia. Ontario apples are shipped mostly to Liverpool and Glasgow; Nova Scotia apples almost entirely to London. Some shipments are also made from both Provinces to Cardiff, Newcastle, Manchester and Leeds. The American apples that compete with Canadian apples in the British markets come principally from Maine and New York. There is, however, a lively actual competition between the apples from one State or Province and the apples from any other. What competition there is resembles that which might exist between dates and figs; each product seems to be separate and distinct, both in its appearance and in the manner in which it is packed; and the conservatism of the British consumer would make it hazardous to attempt any sudden or radical change.

Nova Scotia apples are packed in smaller barrels than ours, made of spruce staves and bound with old-fashioned hoops. One recognizes familiar names among them—Baldwins, Kings, Spies. It would be difficult to add to the fame of the apples grown in the Annapolis Valley. The delicate aroma and luscious quality of the Gravenstein and the Bishop Pippin are justly admired, and place these varieties among the very best in the world.

A USEFUL PURPOSE

The apples that are exported from the State of Maine are mostly Baldwins. They are shipped in large quantities by way of Portland and Boston. Maine Baldwins occupy an important place in British markets. They are cheap, and of inferior quality, but serve a useful purpose in bringing apples within the reach of people who cannot afford to pay higher prices for better fruit. It is not an unusual occurrence in the Liverpool Fruit Exchange for a lot of Maine Baldwins branded with "Fancy" and many crosses, indicative of high quality, to go with difficulty at 11s. 6d. of 11s. 9d., and the next lot some well known brand of Canadian Baldwins, marked simply No. 1, begin with eager bids of 18s.

The other New England States also export apples, though not in any considerable quantities. Vermont Spies are said to be of very high quality.

From the Hudson Valley and the four great apple counties of Western New York, large shipments are made to European markets. These are usually of good quality and bring fair prices. But careful sorting and packing are not so much in evidence as they ought to be, notwithstanding the assurances stenciled on the top of the barrels. Their home market is more important to them than ours is to us, and our export trade is, in consequence, better developed. Winter shipments of Greenings from cold storage are the most characteristic of their exports. These are well appreciated and command high prices.

THE BEN DAVIS

Apples from the Western States occasionally find their way into British markets. It is well known that throughout the West, chiefly in Kansas, orchards have been extensively planted, and great quantities of apples are now grown there. The most popular variety and by far the most abundant is the Ben Davis. It is a handsome apple and a fine keeper. The tree is hardy, good bearer and produces a crop a few years after

The third of a series of articles written for the Toronto News by E. J. McIntyre.

planting. The quality also of the Western Ben Davis is good, and should by no means be gauged by the quality of the Canadian Ben Davis. Who is not familiar with the well shaped, handsome apple that looks not unlike the firm or high, but tastes like a frost-bitten turnip? Exports of Western Ben Davis apples have not been successful. The voyage is long; the shipping rates high; apples are perishable, and the Ben Davis has not a good name.

The Newtown Pippin is the highest priced apple to be found in British fruit shops. It is a large, well shaped apple, and looks very handsome in its delicate coloring of pale green and gold, and its spotless surface glisten like wax. It grows mainly in California, Oregon and Virginia, in which latter State it is known as the Albermarle Pippin. The best samples come from Oregon. They are wrapped in paper like oranges, are carefully sorted in graded sizes and packed in boxes. A dealer buying a box of Newtown knows that he will have no wastage and all the apples in the box are true grade and quality. The Newtown has a pleasant taste and a mild, agreeable flavor.

FANCIEST OF THEM ALL

But the fanciest of fancy apples, it must be admitted, come from British Columbia. Spitzenbergs, Kings, Spies and Baldwins, acquire in that favored province a wealth of size and glorious coloring that is nothing short of marvellous. The plumage of the Golden Pheasant is scarcely more gorgeous. One can easily imagine them taking the lead in British markets against all competition, once an export trade is developed. In flavor and quality they do not quite reach our standard, but they are certainly not inferior in these regards to the apples of Oregon and California.

However, when all is said, the deliberate opinion expressed before is hereby repeated. It is in the Province of Ontario that the apple attains its greatest excellence. Our Northern Spy represents the highest development of the apple species. Many kinds of apples are attractive in appearance; many are pleasant to the taste; and some are very luscious; but the Northern Spy combines the beauty, fragrance, aroma and delicious melting quality of them all.—E. J. McIntyre.

S. S. Latona Lost

Canadian shipowners of perishable goods will learn with regret of the total loss of the S. S. Latona of the Thomson line. The Latona homeward bound and Japanese were in collision off the Lizard on May 19th. Cable despatches contain the information that all the crew were taken off in safety.

The loss of the boat will be a serious one to the St. Lawrence trade as she was recognized as being one of the best boats in the service coming to Montreal. Being originally built for the Australian trade her cold storage compartments were ample to ensure the proper temperature for the safe carrying of fruit and dairy produce to Great Britain.

New Building for M.A.C.

The advisory board of the Manitoba Agricultural College has approved plans for a new building in which to conduct the teaching of mechanics and engineering. The building will be of square or white brick, three floors, and will be located between the dairy building and the river.

A building for domestic science teaching purposes is also urgently needed and is being considered by the board.