

Shippers here will only ship by the best steamers ; they will not ship apples by "Tramps" at any rate of freight, and your apple shippers, I have no doubt, have found out that the difference of a few cents less freight per barrel does not begin to counterbalance the losses incurred through shipping by vessels that are not adapted for the safe transport of perishable cargoes.

The ocean rate from Halifax is as low as it can be done for to furnish any inducement for proper boats to call there. At less there would be nothing in it, and steamers would do better to load up at their United States loading port, which they can readily do.

There is more in patronizing the right kind of boats and getting the fruit landed in good order than in a few cents difference in rates of freight.

I shall be pleased to furnish you with any other information in my power.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) ALLAN C. SMITH.

THE following letters appeared in the Halifax *Herald* during the last winter. And the Publication Committee consider them of sufficient interest to Fruit Growers to reproduce them here.

The writers are too well known to the members of the Association to require an introduction :

NOVA SCOTIA'S FRUIT INDUSTRY AS FOLLOWED BY THE PIONEER FRENCH ACADIANS, AND IMPROVED UPON BY THE COLONISTS OF NEW ENGLAND—APPLE TREES OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS OLD STILL BEARING FRUIT—PRESENT CONDITION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS OF FRUIT GROWING.

STARR'S POINT, KINGS, *Jan. 23rd.*—Many years ago when the early French colonists first explored the valley from Port Royal to Grand Pre, they gave glowing accounts of the natural fertility of the soil and of the success which attended their first attempts at agriculture and horticulture. During the hundred and fifty years which intervened between this period and the expulsion of the French Acadians in 1755, the cultivation of apples, pears and other fruits had become quite general in the different settlements in the valley ; almost every cabin having its garden stocked with apple and pear