

## MUST HAVE STANDARD PACKAGES

Fruit growers and representatives from the manufacturers of fruit packages met and discussed matters pertaining to sizes and shapes of packages at the annual meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association held in Toronto on November 16. Those present were unanimous in the opinion that standard sizes and standard shapes should be adopted. The growers appointed a committee to meet the manufacturers so that the matter may be brought before the authorities.

It was evident, from the discussion, that neither the manufacturers nor the growers knew the dimensions of what is termed the Ontario apple barrel. It was also clear that each manufacturer of baskets makes a basket to suit his customers.

In opening the case for the growers, Mr. Robert Thompson, of St. Catharines, said that the 11-quart basket had given satisfaction, but suggested that the six-and-two-thirds quart basket be discarded and a half basket or one with five-and-a-half quart capacity be used in its stead. He claimed that the six-and-two-thirds quart basket is not generally made now because it does not sell for more than a half basket. For that reason smaller sizes are used. The present carriers for tender fruits are not satisfactory, and the pear package requires to be improved. Standard dimensions are wanted for each size because, when only size is mentioned, each manufacturer prepares a last to suit, and perhaps no two makers turn out packages similar in shape. The length, depth and width at top and bottom must be made imperative. It was also suggested by Mr. Thompson that the 96-quart barrel, with 28½ inch stave, should be adopted in place of the larger barrels now used in Ontario.

Mr. James Innes, barrel manufacturer of Chatham, said that New York growers had shipped pears successfully in a keg with 17½ inch staves and 14 inch head. With regard to the apple barrel it was explained that staves that were not good enough to make flour barrels could be used in the manufacture of apple barrels. This is the chief reason why manufacturers turn out so many 30 inch barrels. These, however, can be cut down to the 28½ inch size.

It was pointed out by Mr. A. E. Sherrington, of Walkerton, that the people in Great Britain know the Ontario barrel to be larger than the one used in Nova Scotia, and willingly pay more for it. The merchants across the water had informed him that the size should not be changed.

A basket manufacturer said it was advisable to have a uniform size, shape, and make throughout Canada, but that steps should be taken, also, to prevent other sizes and shapes being imported. Another said that there should be common sizes, and that if any other size were made the capacity and dimensions should be plainly stamped on the outside of each package. Mr. Everest suggested that inspectors be appointed to see that the law is lived up to. He thought that in most cases the producer was to blame for the various sizes now used. This statement was challenged by Major Jas. Shepherd, of Queenston, who claimed that manufacturers go around offering the smaller baskets to the producers at easy prices.

It was pointed out by Mr. Geo. Williams, of Thorold, that, as the manufacturers have various dimensions for the different sizes now in use, samples from the factories should be submitted to the growers. A committee could then decide on the most satisfactory dimensions. It entails considerable expense to change the last on which the baskets are made. The one that looks best and packs to best advantage in a car should be adopted.

Dairy Commissioner J. A. Ruddick pointed out that something definite must be laid before the Dominion Parliament and suggested that a committee be appointed to prepare a definite request that can be further discussed at the Dominion Fruit Growers' Conference that will meet in February.

A committee comprising Messrs. Robert Thompson, A. W. Peart, D. Johnson and W. D. A. Ross later conferred with the manufacturers of packages and it was arranged that the manufacturers should submit samples, so that the committee may select the one that suits best and present their report at the conference in Ottawa in February.

## Vegetable Growers Before Tariff Commission

(Concluded from page 481.)

2. The American tariff on vegetables imported from Canada into the United States is almost prohibitive, carrying both specific and ad valorem duties; the American climate enables the American market gardeners, in advance of our own, to cultivate vegetables in the open fields, at an extremely low rate of wages, and when the United States markets are sufficiently supplied the surplus stock of garden produce is shipped into this country and dumped on our markets on payment of such an insignificant duty that the competition caused to our gardeners is in many instances ruinous. The injustice of the situation is increased by the fact that the United States markets are practically closed against Canadian growers.

3. Such American garden produce arriving at Montreal and Toronto in large quantities, being the surplus stock of the United States markets, and on account of its perishable character, valued at extremely low price, and subject to an insignificant duty, is acquired at very inferior prices by Ontario importers and unexpectedly thrown on our markets, glutting the said markets and causing great loss and damage to our farmers and gardeners.

4. As a result of this wholesale, indiscriminate and unregulated importation of American produce, the Canadian markets are filled with foreign vegetables long before our crops are ready for sale, and all early vegetables cultivated in Canada are liable to fluctuation and falls in value of such extent and uncertainty as to discourage market gardening in Canada.

5. Not only have very large amounts been in-