

Mr. BOULTER: There is a tree in our county that my father brought in 1818, that had a good crop this year.

Mr. SHEPHERD: I made a shipment of forty cases to Sir Donald Smith in London on the 14th November. The apples had never been barrelled up, and they were in my own shed. I have my own packers, always packing the apples in the cases. They were not bruised, and were in very good condition, and no doubt carried well. The Fameuse are quite crisp and in good condition now. By packing in cases they cannot be bruised, as each apple is fitted into a square. That is the reason I prefer the squares, and to have the apples wrapped in paper and tightly squeezed. After the case is filled the apples just come even with the top of the case, then we put brown paper right over the top, and then nail the cover on, and they can't move about.

Mr. JONES said he had pressed and shipped Fameuse on the 5th or 6th November, and noticed that they offered no resistance to the apple press in placing the head, and he was afraid that by the time they arrived at their destination they would be bruised clean down to the face, but they went in the finest possible condition. They were shipped from the St. Lawrence District to Ottawa, Buffalo and Toronto.

Mr. WHYTE (Ottawa): I can bear testimony to the excellence of Mr. Jones' packing. I bought a barrel of Snows, and they turned out perfect from top to bottom—the first time I ever bought a barrel and found that result. (Laughter).

Mr. CASTON: This is an exceptional year, and the Snows are now as far ahead as they usually are in January. I attribute that to the hard frost about the 23rd September and the bright weather in August. All apples are about two months ahead of time this year.

OVERPLANTING.

By F. G. H. PATTISON, GRIMSBY.

The time has come in my opinion for us to seriously consider whether we ought not to stop planting most varieties of fruit.

For my part I think that, for the present at all events, in many lines of fruit, production is exceeding the limits of profitable consumption. No doubt it is a difficult thing to limit production, for even when we are agreed that too much fruit is being produced, it is our neighbors whom we think ought to stop; but for ourselves we will go on just a little while longer. Yet if a society were established for the destruction of other people's fruit trees how popular it would be! But although difficult, it is not impossible. It is not too much to say that if every other fruit tree, vine and bush now growing in Ontario were destroyed at once it would be vastly better for us fruit growers, and vastly better for the quality of fruit put upon home and foreign markets. The fruit trees left would receive proper attention which too often they do not get, and the fruit would bring a living price instead of being given away as it was too often this season. When plums are sold by the carload at nine cents a basket, and grapes at from five to eight cents, it is time to call a halt. In this connection I would especially call your attention to the cases of plums and grapes, for while we are undoubtedly over-planted in other fruits too, I think that the pressure is more felt in these two varieties just now. Now we heard it said that this last was an exceptional season for plums, and that the like will not occur again for many years, but I do not for a moment believe it. Possibly the same trees may not bear such a heavy crop for three or four years, but when we consider the vast number of plum trees planted but not yet bearing, we can easily come to the conclusion that this crop—heavy as it undoubtedly was—will not be a circumstance to the crop we will have say in 1898 or 1900. And yet this year many baskets brought the grower nothing, and some less than nothing. Failing some large new outlet for our crop we must be prepared to cease planting or else produce at a loss. Take the case of