

"There seems to be an impression among the packers that a few bad ones to the box will not matter as long as the rest are good. So far as we can observe, there is no systematic attempt made to grade the fruit, it being usual to put small apples in the bottom and middle and large ones on top. All this serves to disappoint dealers and to keep prices down, and destroy the reputation of B. C. products.

"The same thing applies in a different way to plums. In our opinion, growers allow these to ripen too much before picking, so that when they have been in the market for a day or two they are apt to show signs of decay. They also very often pack ripe and unripe fruit together, so that it is impossible to ship boxes which might otherwise be sold and give good satisfaction by their keeping qualities.

"We would suggest that all shippers be requested to have their names stamped legibly on each box; this would insure a good packer always getting credit for good fruit, and he would reap corresponding benefit. If there are any regulations that can be enforced as to the quality of the fruit shipped to the open market, we think it would be advisable to have them put into force.

"The style of the California fruit is the best object lesson which anyone can conceive, and it would afford us pleasure at any time to exhibit the style and packing of such California fruit as we might happen to have in our warehouse, to anyone looking for pointers in this direction.

"Yours truly,

"F. R. STEWART & Co."

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