

DEFINITION OF A NO. 2 APPLE

AN APPLE SHIPPER.

The committee appointed by the American Apple Growers' Congress last season recommended as a definition of a No. 2 apple the following:

"No. 2 apples may be $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch less in diameter than No. 1 apples, and not over 20 per cent. of the apples affected by defacement of surface by scab, dry rot, worms or other defects, shall be hand picked from the trees and not bruised or skin broken, shall be of a bright and normal color and shapely formed."

This definition of a No. 2 apple is of the very greatest interest to the Canadian apple grower. We have in Section 6 of the Fruit Marks Act a definition of No. 1 fruit that is in every respect satisfactory, and there is a constant demand for a definition of a No. 2; but the difficulty is that language appears to be hardly definite enough to mark out clearly the degree of imperfections that will be allowed in a No. 2 apple, because it is of course understood that a No. 2 apple is a defective apple.

The above definition of the Apple Growers' Congress has also been adopted by the International Apple Shippers' Association. I can not help thinking this definition is not workable. The reference to the size of the apple might pass, though it is little better than using the phrase, "Too small to grade No. 1." But the

most serious objection is the admission of 20 per cent. of defective apples, with little or no regulation as to the degree of imperfection in the individual fruits. The inference is that the remaining 20 per cent. would be free from scab, dry rot, worm holes, or other defects. Virtually, then, 80 per cent. would be No. 1 apples except in the matter of size. Now, size is of the least consequence of the qualities mentioned, so that practically a No. 2 barrel would consist of two grades, viz., fruit with worm hole and scab to the amount of 20 per cent., and 80 per cent. perfect fruit slightly smaller than No. 1.

This violates the first principle of true grading, in permitting different qualities to go in the same package. I, therefore, consider that, so far from making matters better, this definition makes matters worse. In looking for a description of a No. 2 barrel, the individual apples must be taken into account, and if certain blemishes are permitted they must be permitted in each specimen. It will not do to distinguish between certain specimens in the same package, except so far as to make a reasonable allowance—say 5 to 10 per cent.—for the inevitable errors that come in rapid work by the class of help that must be employed in packing fruit.

GRAPES FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

WILLIAM FRETZ, JORDAN HARBOR, ONT.

I have been shipping grapes to British Columbia for at least three seasons. They were all crated and shipped by express, the bunches being selected. So far this market has not been very satisfactory.

The great objection to it is that as soon as grapes arrive there by freight, customers, who have placed standing orders, will wire cancelling all orders, while perhaps at least two shipments are in the express company's hands. In most cases these grapes are refused, causing loss.

I expect to continue shipping to my best customers, but there are others I would not do business with under any circumstances. All goods are shipped C. O. D., but this does not compel the buyers to receive them.

So far as Manitoba is concerned there is no apparent reason why, with proper facilities, we should not supply all the fruit consumed there. I have also made several trial shipments of strawberries to Winnipeg, but have not met with much success.

A Different Shaped Box Desired.

CRAZE & GOODWIN, MANCHESTER, ENG.

For ordinary fruit the barrel is the most profitable package for the Canadian dealer or farmer. Boxes should only be used for the highest class fruit, and should contain about 60 pounds weight of fruit.

The box of 36 pounds is too small, and there is too much waste space at the bottom, top and sides. The box should be half as long again so as to give it some appearance in the market. At present it is too short and dumpy.

The inspection of fruit in Canada and the new government method of grading are working out satisfactorily on our English markets.

The Wagner Apple for Export.—Mr. John Brown, inspector for the Department of Agriculture at Glasgow, reports to the Fruit Division, Ottawa, that the Wagner apple is much esteemed by some in the trade there, and if the fruit is of good size it is readily bought by certain of the best buyers. Others again will not look at this variety if they can get Spys or Baldwins, and class it next to Ben Davis. Its color and appearance are its redeeming points, as it lacks the flavor and juiciness of the two above mentioned varieties. Some dealers say it is a mistake to ship Wagners after the month of December, as they take on scald very easily.

I like The Horticulturist.—J. C. B., Galt.