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## The Box Packing of Apples

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THREE essentials are required in securing good results in the packing of apples in boxes,—good fruit, good boxes and a good and economical arrangement of the fruit. I need not refer to the

first point, other than to say that unless a fruit grower has clean, well-colored, good-sized fruit for the variety, he should not use boxes at all.

With regard to the box, mention of a few points that I have not seen referred to in the many ex-



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hibited fruit journals of Canada, and the United States may be worth while to the experienced. Though a box should not be rough handling, it should be strong enough to stand a bit of it, in case it falls into careless hands. The part most likely to give way is the end of the box. It should be made of spruce or of any other equally strong. It should be at least one and not less than three-quarters to seven-eighths of an inch thick. The manufacturer for cheapness in the United States often prefers to use two pieces for the ends, they should be fastened together strongly with staples or dows that make the end practically as strong as if made in one piece. If when making boxes an end is discovered to be weak it should be cleated on the inside with two narrow thin cleats close to the

To cleat on the outside of the box is to wrap the box with wire discs around the package and should not be resorted to for a moment. The sides

should be three-eighths to seven-sixteenths of an inch thick, and if in two pieces they should be grooved and nailed together. The tops and bottoms should be three-quarters to one-third of an inch thick and in one or two pieces. Both ends and tops should be of good strong wood, not white pine.

I would insist upon all the wood being stained on the outside. It is claimed by the western packers that their wood, stained by fine saws makes a very neat appearance, but though I have observ-

ed a number of their exhibition packages and had samples sent me, yet I have never seen a real neat box from there.

### THE MARKING

I would recommend strongly that one end of each box should have the grade and variety of apples, with the name of the grower or packer neatly printed on it. At the top should be the word "tiers" at one side and the word "apples" at the other, with a dotted line or blank space in front of each word for the number of tiers and apples to be marked by the person packing or branding the box. The printing of the end can easily be done in two colors which will add much to the effect. The material for a box as described can be put up in shook form in St. John, N.B., for twelve and a half to thirteen cents. The other end should have a neat label. Good taste applied in selecting from the samples of a lithograph printer should result in something that would add very materially to the appearance and value of the package. Stencilling the ends should not be considered for a moment in comparison with the label and printing. The label should be about the size of the end piece, ten by eleven inches, and should not cover the whole end of the box when made up.

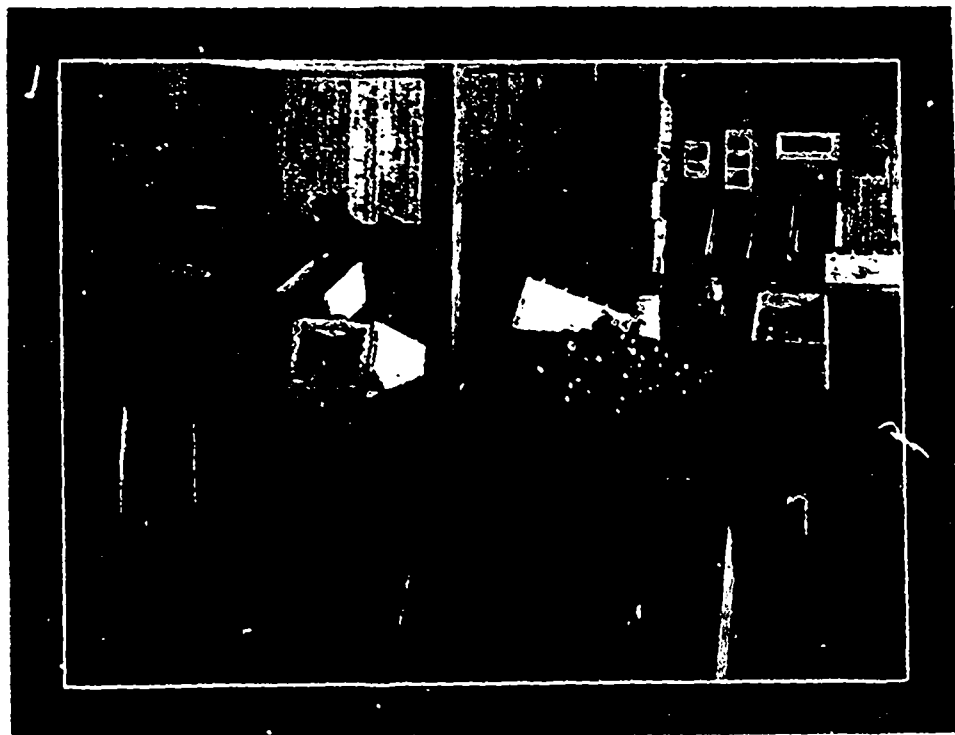
If the ends and sides of the box are both in two pieces it is desirable, even if the end is stapled, to make the sides break joints with the ends when nailing. Thus the strength of the wider side pieces may be added to that of the staples in strengthening the end.

It has often been claimed that the cost of making the box up is about one to one and a half cents. I have found, however, that lads paid seventy to eighty cents a day can make from one hundred to one hundred and twenty boxes in ten hours.

If care is taken, when nailing, to have the sides and tops come just flush with the end pieces, and the side and ends of the cleats on the tops just flush, the sawed ends of the sides, tops and cleats can be quickly and easily smoothed with coarse sand paper and the completed box have a thorough clean and tidy appearance.

### PACKING

Though a great many different packs or ways of placing the apples in a box have been illustrated in magazines, we have found at Hillcrest that a three-two or a three-four pack, according to size of apples, will suit the fancy and number one grades of about all varieties of



Packing Room of The Hillcrest Orchards, Limited, at the Noon Hour