

GRADING TO SIZE IN BARRELS.

In the definition of No. 1 apples the fruit has a minimum size of 'not less than medium for the variety.' It is the almost universal practice of Canadian apple packers to place the medium size and all above that in the one barrel. A few progressive packers, however, are adopting the plan of making two sizes in the No. 1 grade, especially for certain varieties that vary considerably, such as the Spy. Much can be said in favour of this practice. Undoubtedly a better impression is made upon the buyer when the fruit within a given package is of a uniform size. In addition to this there is an economic advantage, inasmuch as different buyers place a different value upon size, certain dealers requiring large apples for their trade, others requiring a medium size.

A difficulty in marking presents itself where this method is used, from the fact that in the case of barrels there is no recognized mark used to distinguish size within a grade. Perhaps the better way to designate such grading is to place, under the grade mark, the minimum and maximum size in inches. If, in the judgment of the packer, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches would be 'medium size for the variety' that he is packing, and 3 inches the maximum of his grade of smaller apples, then under 'No. 1' would be placed the figures ' $2\frac{1}{2}$ -3.' His larger Number 1's then would be 3 inches and upward or, to allow for a certain amount of overlapping, he might make his larger grade $2\frac{3}{4}$ and upwards. Of course the same method could be used for the No. 2 grade.

An objection has been made by some packers that large apples packed by themselves in barrels do not carry nearly as well as a mixture of medium size and large apples. This, however, has not been the subject of accurate experiment, and it is doubtful whether there is a sufficient loss on large apples packed by themselves to make it an offset for other considerations. Although this matter of grading to size in barrels is not a common practice, nevertheless it deserves consideration from those who wish to improve their pack.

ORCHARD BOXES.

The use of orchard boxes cannot be too strongly insisted upon in harvesting apples. Barrels or shipping boxes, when used for handling fruit in the orchard, almost necessarily become soiled and a soiled package is a cheap package, notwithstanding the grade of fruit that may be in it. These boxes give great facilities for handling the fruit safely and profitably. They can be filled in the orchard and if rain threatens can be quickly transported to a packing shed or an empty building on the farm, where good ventilation can be secured, and packed safely one above the other. They preserve the fruit from injury and facilitate quick handling.

The box should be made to hold a bushel of apples without heaping. Many manufacturers of packages keep a box quite suitable for this purpose in stock, they being used largely for handling tomatoes.

To facilitate stacking these boxes, a $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch slat is nailed across the box at each end. These slats do not interfere with filling the box or with emptying it, and prevent the corner of the upper box pressing into the fruit in the lower one in case it is not placed precisely above the other.

IDENTIFICATION AND INFORMATION CARDS.

With the improvement in the public taste for good fruit comes the desirability on the part of the apple growers of meeting this demand, and inasmuch as the value of a variety depends largely upon its season and the use to which it is put, it is expedient for the apple packer not only to give the bare facts that the barrel contains a certain variety of apples, but additional information with