

Cartage Charges in Toronto

In addition to their regular commission of 10 per cent., the Commission men of Toronto require cartage fees of one cent a basket and three cents a crate. This is discussed editorially on page 198. A number of protests against these fees have been sent to THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST and the travelling representative of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST who recently spent a few weeks visiting fruit farms around Lake Ontario from Burlington to Grimsby reports that complaints are general. The following letters state the situation and express the common feeling:

A. W. Peart, Burlington: "The growers feel that the cartage charges are an undue and exceptional burden."

R. C. Fowler, Burlington: "The injury reflected on the grower is the fact that, in addition to 10 per cent. commission, he has to pay cartage charges without any compensating advantage. The commission men say that they put this charge on to defray the cost of delivering the fruit, but we have no guarantee that they deliver it. A great deal of the fruit is taken from the fruit market by the retail dealers when it is bought, but I never heard of any rebate being made on that account. It is manifestly unfair to charge the grower with the delivery of fruit when he receives no benefit. They should charge the retail dealer who benefits by the delivery, supposing, of course, that they do deliver. I prefer to sell my fruit to the buyers in Burlington, rather than to hand it over to the commission man in Toronto to send me what he sees fit in return. The reason given by the commission men in their circular was that 10 per cent. was not enough for selling and delivering the fruit."

J. A. West, Aldershot: "The growers

emphatically resent the extra charge of cartage and it is the general idea that it is a regular fraud; but, owing to the fact that they will not combine, they have to pay. Further, they declare that if the commission men do not get the cartage directly, they will indirectly.

"The reason why the commission men say that they are compelled to charge is slightly altered to suit different districts. For this district the fruit is sent to Toronto by rail and delivered by the express company into the market, so the commission men spin a yarn about their large establishments, the bookkeepers, delivery men and horses that they have to keep to sell the fruit and *deliver same when sold to their customers*; and one commission man said that if he sold one crate of melons for 50 cents and only made five cents commission, how could he pay for that crate to be delivered five miles, which, he said, was often the case; this single crate trick certainly gulled a good many of the growers. I have before me an advice from a commission man in Toronto on which there are 27 baskets and 21 crates sold for \$65.35.—express charges, \$3.55, commission, \$6.53, cartage, 90c., leaving a nett amount of \$54.37; practically 20 per cent. leakage. Of course, the cartage of 90 cents does not look much, but when you come to facts, such as these—there are five growers within approximately one mile radius and each had close upon 2,000 baskets of cherries, totaling 10,000 at one cent a basket, which makes a net gain of \$100 to the commission man.

"The Niagara district cannot ship inland to distant points after Friday, so the growers send all the Friday's stuff by boat to Toronto and this is delivered only on to the wharf; therefore, all fruit not sold has to be carted up to the market by the commis-

sion man's own team. Probably this fact was the origin of the cartage charge."

Wm. F. W. Fisher, Burlington: "(1) We deliver at the railway station, load fruit on cars and pay charges to destination. At this point obligation for any class of men in the world but farmers ceases. Either the commission man or the purchaser should take charge of it at this point.

"(2) I do not consider it honest to impose on people because they happen to be in one's power. This is stolen money.

"(3) Commission men say there are so many in the business that 10 per cent. is not enough on their business. It does not seem to have occurred to any of them that they might go out of business.

"(4) They do not deliver a large portion of the goods but just pocket the money.

"(5) If necessary a straight amount should be added to the per centage commission."

About Apple Orchards.—An up-to-date book for all persons who are interested in the growing and handling of apples is "The American Apple Orchard," by F. A. Waugh. All the various operations from starting an orchard to marketing the product are discussed in a concise and practical manner. The work is complete in all details. It deals with apple culture as practised not only in the United States but also in Canada, many references to Canadian methods being recorded. The book is published by the Orange Judd Company of New York. The price is \$1.00, postpaid. For copies, address the Horticultural Publishing Co., Peterboro, Ont.

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