

standardize two sizes of barrels so nearly alike, would be a great mistake. No doubt there will be further consideration of this subject which will enable the fruit growers to arrive at some standard for one size alone. At present there seems no better compromise than to define a minimum size only, though the dimensions used do not quite harmonize.

The ten by eleven by twenty inch box is giving excellent satisfaction. British Columbia fruit growers who use the box exclusively, find no difficulty in packing any size of apple. Beginners, perhaps, would find two or three sizes convenient, but the objections to having several sizes in a packinghouse are too strong to be easily overcome.

The berry box in two sizes—a four-fifth quart and a two-fifth quart—have proved satisfactory. The four-fifth size is large enough for the best results with strawberries, and the two-fifth box is extremely convenient for the softer raspberries.

In baskets, the four sizes prescribed by the Inspection and Sale Act, fill the bill perhaps as well as any size that could be prescribed. Suggestions have been made that a round bushel basket should be prescribed, inasmuch as a bushel basket is an extremely convenient package for local markets and even for markets more or less distant. But the want of uniformity in the capacity of the reputed bushel basket makes it difficult to quote prices.

It may be fairly said, therefore, that Canada has, up to date, done well to standardize packages, and we are saved from the chaos that prevails in the English local markets and the markets of the United States. The want of uniformity in packages used by English fruit growers has done, perhaps, as much as anything to curtail and limit the extension of the local fruit industry, especially

with reference to the use of fresh fruit. It can be said, too, that very great difficulties are experienced in the large markets of the United States owing to the want of uniformity in fruit packages from different parts of the Union.

#### IMPORTANT NEEDS

There are, however, certain needs developed by a long distance market that require consideration. For instance, a standard pear box is very much needed; the apple box is somewhat too large, and the half size might with advantage be prescribed. The half box, again, is considered by some unnecessarily small, and it has been suggested that the ordinary apple box be used with the depth cut down to eight inches, and it is a question whether the five by eleven by twenty inches, the eight by eleven by twenty inches or some other size should be the standard for pears. One thing is certain, the size of the apple and the pear box must agree in two dimensions at least so as to facilitate packing both apples and pears in cars.

Another objection to the five by eleven by twenty inch box is that the length is too great for the depth for good looks or for strength. Some weight, of course, must be attached to this objection, but it would take experience to prove that the objection is serious.

#### PEACH PACKAGES

Up to date the basket has been the favorite package for peaches and serves the purpose fairly well, so long as we confine it to local markets. But there are grave objections to the basket when we come to ship to long distance markets. So long as the basket is handled quickly and without piling in large lots, the fruit is well protected; but it will not bear shipping in full carload lots to advantage. The sides are weak and are not braced to resist a side strain, and the motion of the cars as well as the

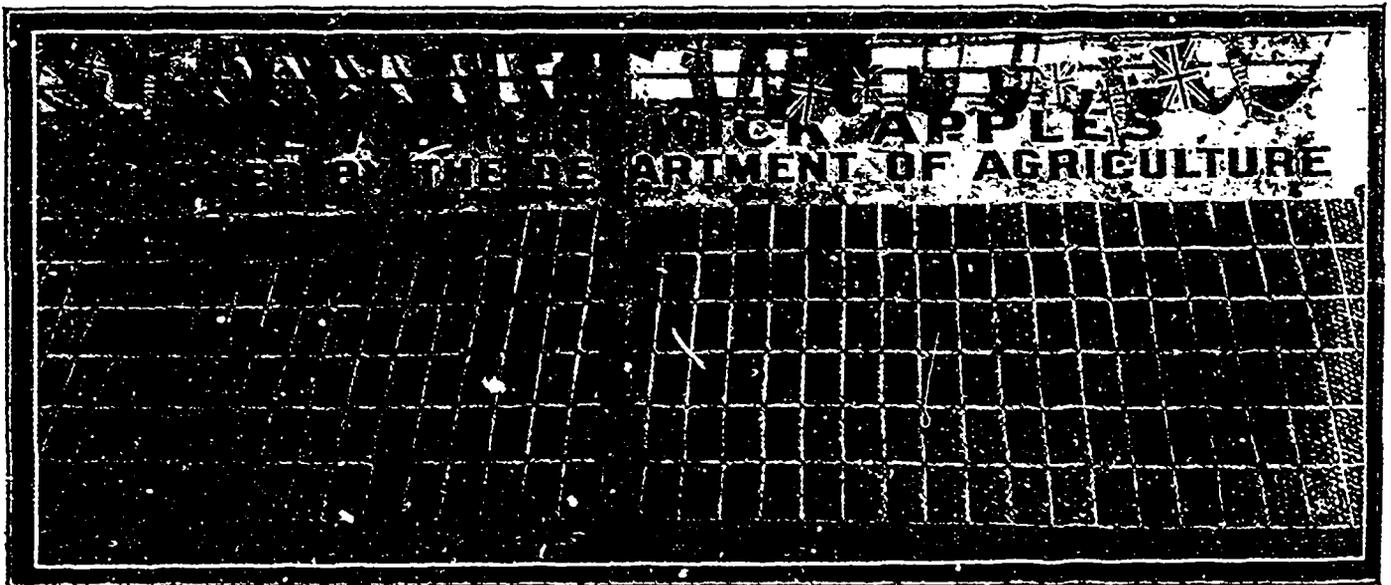
pressure of the upper layers of the fruit, damage the fruit below. For these reasons the stiff package, corresponding to a shallow box with or without a middle division, appears to meet the needs. Here again it would be convenient if it were possible to get this box to conform in two dimensions at least to the apple and pear box to facilitate loading mixed cars.

Cherries in Ontario so far have been marketed, for the most part, in six and eleven quart baskets, but these packages are quite unsuitable for the long-distance market, and there seems to be no reason why a four-basket crate, such as is used in British Columbia, should not be used for cherries and plums to take the place of the six and eleven quart basket. Be it said here that there is no thought whatever that such a crate as this would entirely supplant the basket. The basket is the cheapest and most convenient package, and for the nearby market serves every purpose, and there appears to be no disposition to dispense with it. The same package, or something very similar, might also be used for tomatoes, especially the early.

The whole question would be the matter of the size of the baskets and whether they could be conveniently put into a crate that would ship with other packages. It is extremely desirable that this should be done, if possible, and the problem before the Canadian fruit growers—and one that cannot be solved otherwise—is to harmonize the outside measurements of the packages so as to make the loading, storing, and packing as simple a matter as possible.

If a standard outside size could be set for all these packages, it would make it particularly convenient for the manufacturer who wants as few sizes as possible in his raw material.

(Concluded on page 219)



An Evidence of what New Brunswick Can Do in the Production and Packing of High Grade Apples. Notice the Different Packs Used