

Canadian butter exports have also largely increased, and are now several times larger than those from the United States. The combined exports of butter from Montreal and New York from the beginning of this season to October 25th last were as follows, with comparisons:

	1899.	1898.
Montreal, pkgs.	425,711	227,234
New York, pkgs.	103,860	65,564
Total, pkgs.	529,571	292,798
Increase, pkgs.		236,773

Then there is the bacon trade, in which Canadian products are gradually supplanting those from the United States in Great Britain. We might mention other instances, but we have given a sufficient number to show that there is some ground for alarm on the part of American agriculturists.

The following, from one of our agricultural exchanges in the Eastern States, will give some idea of the strong feeling there is across the line in regard to Canadian competition:

"We have several times called attention to the fact that Canada is closely competing with the United States in the sale of agricultural products on the English markets, and that our farmers and exporters need not only to put their best foot foremost, but to keep it to the front all of the time if they desire to retain the trade they have, to say nothing about increasing it as they are able to increase production. And with the trade in England will go not only the remainder of Great Britain, but the prospective trade of other European countries.

"We are by no means professional alarmists, but with our constant watch upon the markets here in Canada, and our study of exchanges, we feel it our duty to warn our agricultural and horticultural readers of the present conditions as we see them. And, if we may believe the very roseate view of Canadian conditions as taken by correspondents of the *Toronto Globe*, the danger of this competition is increasing very rapidly. And their view is corroborated by what we learn from other sources of the work which is being done by the Department of Agriculture for the Dominion of Canada to improve the quality of their products, and to find markets for them."

The journal then goes on to quote extracts from the *Globe's* correspondents in many parts of Ontario on the agricultural outlook and the prospects for this season's crops, and compares the prosperity and progressiveness of Canadian farmers outlined in this correspondence with the conditions to be found in agricultural sections of the Eastern States. It closes the article with the following piece of advice, which Ontario farmers would do well to give heed to:

"But we have quoted enough to show that Canadian farmers are awake, up to date, and trying to be ready to furnish English markets with anything they want, from fat steers and choice hams to canned tomatoes and raspberry jam. Do not let them distance the United States in the race by sending better goods than we can send."

The Export Apple Trade

Complaints of Badly Packed Fruit

Notwithstanding the warning given last spring reports continue to come from Great Britain of poorly packed Canadian apples being received there. Why will our packers, or those who are responsible for the picking, handling, and packing of our fruit persist in following methods that must bring financial loss to themselves and injure the reputation of Canadian apples in the English market? One of the latest reports to arrive regarding the shipments of this year's fruit is that the apples are pressed down so closely in the barrels that many of them are bruised when opened. It is hard to understand why an attempt

should be made to pack more apples in the barrel than the number necessary to cause them to carry in the best condition. All such fruit is sold by the barrel and it would be more to the interest of the shipper to put in too few, rather than too many apples.

But be this as it may, the fact remains that there are numerous complaints this year as to the condition of Canadian apples when they arrive in Great Britain and particularly so in connection with the fall fruit. It would be better for the trade all round if as little fall fruit were sent over as possible. As a rule, unless the apples are perfectly sound, and the greatest care is exercised in picking and packing, fall fruit arrives in the old land in poor shape and a great deal of it has to be sacrificed at prices that must mean a serious loss to the shipper. Like early fodder cheese, fall apples only serve in a large measure to spoil the market for the later and better quality of goods for which high prices are expected. If the bulk of the fall fruit could be disposed of in this country, and only the finest brands sent forward, the market would always be in better shape for the splendid winter varieties of apples which this country is so capable of producing.

Of all the products of the farm which leave Canada for the British market there are none which give a more regular and even price to the producer, when there is a crop, and at the same time bring more varied prices in the old land than apples. From 25c. to 50c. per barrel at the outside will cover the difference in price which local buyers in this country pay the producer, while we frequently hear of the same fruit being sold on the British market at a much greater variation in price. Such a condition of things in one of our most important export trades should not be. If the quality is so nearly alike on this side as to make a difference in price of only about twenty-five cents per barrel, there is no reason in the world for the great variation in values on the other side of the water. The only reasonable conclusion that we can come to in regard to it is that the difference in quality of the fruit when it arrives in England is due to inferior picking, handling and packing of the fruit and its treatment in transit by train and ocean steamer. This is a condition of affairs that can be remedied if those interested only make up their mind to do so. There is a right and a wrong way of packing apples for the export trade, and it should not be a difficult matter for those connected with this trade to find out which is the right way and to follow it.

Canadian winter apples are beginning to arrive in Great Britain, and it is to be hoped that complaints as to the quality, packing, etc., will become fewer as shipments increase. While it may be difficult to get every barrel of fall fruit landed in good condition, there should be no difficulty with the winter varieties if proper methods are adopted in packing and shipping. A large export trade cannot be worked up unless every barrel which goes forward contains sound and honest fruit and is landed in good condition. This should be the aim of every one engaged in the Canadian fruit trade, the grower, the packer and the shipper. So far this season we have had no definite reports of fraudulent packing of fruit, and it is to be hoped that the timely exposure last spring has had a wholesome effect in preventing such dishonest practices in connection with this year's fruit trade.

Farm Telephones

The development of the farm telephone system in the United States may be taken as an indication of the advancement that is being made in the position of the farmer. The day of isolation for the farmer in the older farming sections of this country is past and a new era is opening up before him. By a system of farm telephones he is brought in touch with his neighbor or friend several miles away, and he is made to feel that he is a part of the active life of this busy world. Distances disappear, and stormy weather, bad roads, etc., are not so much of a drawback to the social side of farm life, when one's friends can be called up