

The Orchard and Garden

What Constitutes No. 1 and No. 2 Apples

Editor, THE FARMING WORLD.

The following is the substance of a letter received by the Fruit Division from a large apple grower:

"I should like to know your interpretation of the new amendments to the Fruit Marks Act. I have sold ten thousand barrels of No. 1 apples, based on the same kind of fruit that we supplied last year. No. 1. You are credited in a recent newspaper paragraph with saying that there will be three barrels of No. 2 apples for every No. 1 barrel in the average orchard. In this case, it will be necessary for me to buy over fifty thousand barrels of apples, as they run from the orchard, to fill my orders for No. 1's, and I find it almost impossible to make satisfactory sales of No. 2's."

The following was sent in reply to the apple shipper quoted above:

Dear Sir,—

A package containing No. 1 apples must contain 90 per cent. of fruit practically perfect, and the 10 per cent. of defective specimens must be sound, not less than medium size, of good color for the variety and of normal shape. There must be only one variety in a package. No interpretation of the Act would permit 10 per cent. of utterly worthless apples or unmarketable apples in a No. 1 barrel. The only excuse or explanation of any allowance is to cover the exigencies of rapid work in the course of packing, as it is ordinarily followed. There would, therefore, be no excuse for allowing a small apple or a distorted apple or one of another variety in a No. 1 barrel. Such defects would not escape the eye of the packer even in rapid work, which always includes the survey of every apple. This, of course, would not include a worm-hole or a bruise which might easily escape attention in rapid work, and it was for such defects only that the 10 per cent. allowance was made. Unfortunately, proper spraying is not yet common in Canadian orchards. I am certain that in the average unsprayed orchard not more than 25 per cent. of the marketable apples will be apples without defects. In the sprayed orchards the proportion of sound fruit will vary with the way in which the spraying is done. In the best orchards there may be 90 per cent. of No. 1 fruit, but some sprayed orchards will not give more than 50 per cent., and perhaps less.

A package marked No. 2 must contain 50 per cent. of fruit free from any defects which will cause material waste. Although the phrase "material waste" may seem somewhat indefinite, nevertheless, no more defective term could be chosen. It is expected that the No. 2 apples will be for the most part defective, but all must be good marketable apples, practically free from any blemishes, and certainly free from serious blemishes that would materially reduce their market value. The 20 per cent. allowance must cover all defects. Some apples will contain a worm hole that was not detected, others may have a large patch of scab than should be admitted not to cause material waste, others may have a bruise that was not seen, but it is not at all probable that any individual specimen will contain all of these defects more than one of these defects, so that the 20 per cent. of apples having defects causing material waste in the No. 2

will yet be apples that can be turned to some use, many of them being only slightly less valuable than the rest of the barrel. There is the further condition that all No. 2 apples must be at least nearly medium size. It will thus be seen that the No. 2 apple will constitute the medium grade of apples, between the perfect No. 1 and the very defective apples, which still have some market value, that will be shipped under the brand No. 2. It will constitute the bulk of the apples that are shipped from the average unsprayed orchard.

It has been a common mistake on the part of dealers to over-sell No. 1 apples, and publicity is given to this letter for the purpose, warning dealers that the Fruit Marks Act will be strictly enforced with reference to the grading into No. 1 and No. 2.

A. M. McKee,
Chief Fruit Division.

Ottawa.

Fruit Growers Organize

Representatives from the various co-operative fruit growers associations in Ontario, met in Toronto recently, to organize what will be known as the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association. The objects of the association are to gain reliable information as to fruit crop prospects and sales for the guidance of the various associations. The Provincial association will assist the local association in disposing of their fruit, and will bring them in close touch with the buyers. The Provincial association may also next year place agents in the more important local and foreign markets.

The following officers were elected: President, A. E. Sherrington, Walkerton; Vice-Presidents, B. Johnson, Forestburg, R. Thompson, St. Catharines, and W. H. Dempsey, Trenton; Secretary-Treasurer, A. B. Cutting, Toronto. Each of the different associations will have the right of appointing a member to the board of directors.

The Fruit Garden

Fruit trees which have become exhausted, apparently worn out by over-cropping or neglect of manuring and proper cultivation, may often be restored to fertility at a not extravagant expenditure. Apple and pear trees are more apt to suffer from having borne excessively heavy crops than are the stone fruits. The remedy, unless the trees are very old or badly diseased, is to apply a heavy top dressing.

The dressing may consist of one kind of material or a compost consisting of a variety of materials, and this latter would perhaps be better than the using of one kind only. Residents in the country can always get grass turf or the cleanings of a water hole or pond, and these may be mixed with house refuse, night soil, decayed leaves and debris, farmyard manure, and these may be sprinkled with some chemical fertilizer, such as superphosphate or bone dust.

A heavy, cold soil, would be benefited by adding road scrapings, wood ashes, coal ash, sand and plenty of straw horse manure. When the material to be used is ready, remove several inches of the old soil above the roots of the trees to be treated (the removal must depend on the size of the tree and the spread of its roots) and replace with the prepared com-

post. This should be two or three inches deeper than the old soil, so that its settling down may be allowed for. The trees will probably require a severe pruning, and this with the top dressing should produce good, healthy wood. The reduction of the head should be in proportion to the age of the tree, its vigor, and the size and form of its branches.

The bark of old trees is often covered with lichens and sometimes with scale or other parasites. All these should be cleaned away directly after pruning.

Dull, misty weather is good for the planting of fruit trees; at such times the roots remain moist, while in windy weather they quickly get dry, and this does harm.

W. R. GILBERT.

A Prominent South Ontario Resident Passes Away

There died at Oshawa, Ont., on August 4th, Mr. Jeremiah Lick, one of south Ontario's most prominent farmers and citizens. He was a man of strong, clear intellect and indomitable energy, and was able to cope successfully with any difficulty that might arise in connection with his farm management. While most successful in accumulating a good share of this world's goods, he did not do so at the sacrifice and respect of the people in the district, whose confidence in his integrity and good judgment he retained to the very last. He leaves one son, Mr. Elmer Lick, well known as a successful fruit-grower and institute worker, and six daughters, Mrs. Isaac Ray, Columbus, Mrs. W. H. French, Oshawa, and four at home.

Prince Edward Island

Fine weather. Harvest is on. Wheat is a bumper crop in some sections of the Island. It is said that the joint worm has done considerable damage in at least ten townships, but the damage is much less than last year. The corn crop is fair, not so good as last year. Straw is somewhat short. Potatoes much below the average on account of "misses" and the unusual number of bugs. The turnip crop is reported above the average. Corn, rye and mixed feed very good. Apples will be an average crop, also plums, and berries were abundant. Cattle and sheep are scarce and high. More horses are being raised. Farm help is scarce. Wages ranged from 65c. to \$1 per day or from \$12 to \$18 per month.

The sixty-five British emigrants brought to this province in the spring have given good satisfaction. Dairy products are bringing good prices, and many of our farmers are increasing their number of milk cattle. The amount of milk is above the average. Hens are laying well now since they have access to the grain fields. Eggs are in good demand.

Our land appears to be well adapted for the raising of fodder corn, as there are some excellent fields near the city.

The Sussex Packing Company will, in the near future, establish a canning factory in Summerside, provided the farmers will undertake to grow sufficient quantities of the vegetables required, such as peas, corn, pumpkins, squashes, etc.

A. R.

Difficult to Read—"What does that mean?" said a man pointing to the Hebrew inscription on a synagogue. "I cannot say, but if I had my flute with me, I might be able to play it!"