

GERMANY IS IMPORTANT BUYER OF CANADIAN APPLES

Ontario Fruit Well Known on Hamburg Market— Possibilities at Bremen.

The possibilities of Bremen as a market for Canadian apples deserves the attention of Canadian shippers. Direct shipments from Canada are almost unknown, and, with the exception of an occasional consignment transferred from London, the market is neglected. Bremen, like Hamburg, is a free port, occupying a situation, and possessing transportation facilities which make it a good centre of distribution for north-west Germany, the populous industrial districts of Westphalia, and for a considerable section of the Rhine country beyond. The Bremen transactions in fruit cannot, of course, compare with Hamburg's turnover. It was only some eight years ago that the fruit trade in Bremen was placed on an organized basis, when the system of fruit auctions were inaugurated on Hamburg lines. But the trade ever since has grown by leaps and bounds, and during the last season aggregated nearly 36,000 tons in weight.

The chief brokers controlling the apple trade in Hamburg, are the following:—Ph. Astheimer and Sohn, Fruchthof, Hamburg; Menke and Busse, Fruchthof, Hamburg; Timm and Gerstengorn, Fruchthof, Hamburg; Lütten, J. H., and Sohn, Fruchthof, Hamburg; Godenrath, Jacob, Fruchthof, Hamburg; Stier, Aug., Oberhafenstr., Hamburg; Olf, H., and Sohn, Bahnhofplatz 1, Hamburg.

Disadvantages of Small Shipments.

It is perhaps unnecessary to refer again except in a sentence to the disadvantages attending the shipment of small lots. This still goes on, but is becoming more and more of an anomaly with the growing practice, especially in the United States, of shipping large lines of single varieties. Hamburg dealers prefer to take lots of 50 to 100 barrels or boxes of one kind as they are enabled thereby to execute repeat orders from their clients for the same mark and variety. The brokers were much interested to hear of the spread of the co-operative movement in connection with fruit as likely to improve Canadian supplies. In Hamburg the barrel trade in apples comes to an end in December and thereafter the market looks for fruit in boxes only. It is understood that in the coming season the shipping facilities for Ontario fruit will be improved by the establishment of a service from Boston as well as from New York under the joint arrangement between the North German Lloyd and the Hamburg American Steamship Company. This should give Ontario fruit growers an opportunity of testing the Bremen market, suggests Mr. C. F. Just, Canadian trade commissioner at Hamburg.

The final auctions of Australian fruit in the second week in June brought the overseas apple trade of Hamburg for 1912-13 to a close. It has been in several respects an eventful season. The imports received exceeded all previous records.

Fully ten per cent. of the North American receipts of barrel fruit were Canadian, and came chiefly from Ontario.

Markets and Reputation.

The course of the market for North American apples from the Atlantic as well as from the Pacific was, on the whole, disappointing to shippers. Prices for early apples at the outset remained satisfactory as long as arrivals were light, but with heavier imports a depression set in, and under the pressure of unusually heavy deliveries of Pacific coast fruit, where a huge crop had been obtained, a low and unremunerative level of prices was reached and continued at the end. An adverse factor for Canadian-American fruit was the competition of a larger local German crop than had been anticipated, coupled with heavy imports of apples from the adjoining countries.

In discussing the Canadian position with the leading fruit brokers, the commissioner found a general feeling existing that Canadian fruit was not keeping up to its old high reputation. During the last four or five years Canadian apples, it was stated, were not arriving in good condition. The packing was all right, but the color was unsatisfactory; there was also evidently an excess of moisture in the fruit judging by the frequent occurrence of mould, while the appearance of the fruit in other respects seems to suggest that more attention might be paid to spraying.

Two of these fruit brokers who have visited Canada for the last seventeen years, and one of whom has direct interests in orchards in Ontario, gave it as their opinion that the trees were allowed to make too much wood, or were not sufficiently pruned, so that the sun did not get at the fruit, and also if, during the picking rain fell, the heavy foliage prevented the evaporation of the drying out of the apples.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST FOREST FIRES

Problem Presented is Similar to That in Cities—Necessary Equipment—What Manitoba Has Lost

The prevention of fire on forest reserves is a problem similar to that of the prevention of fires in cities. The things to be provided are: (1) Means of getting immediate information of fires; (2) means of reaching the fires quickly; (3) a staff of fire fighters; (4) equipment for fighting fires, and preventive measures, was the dictum of Mr R. H. Campbell at the Canadian Forestry Association recent convention.

Each reserve is divided into ranger districts with a forest ranger in charge. These districts now average 200 square miles and are too large. The area which one man can patrol will very with the special danger of fire that there may be in the district and with the efficiency of the preventive measures adopted. For effective protection in any frequented district the area should not be more than 100 square miles.

To get immediate information of fires a sufficient patrol is required and this is supplemented by stationing men at lookout points where a view can be obtained over large areas of the forest, and by constructing telephone lines by which warning of fire may be transmitted without delay.

To provide means of reaching fires quickly, roads and trails are opened up so that all parts of the reserve may be readily accessible.

To obtain fire fighters when more than the regular staff of the reserve are required for that purpose, a populated district in the vicinity is required with means of communication and of reaching the scene of the fire. One of the great difficulties of handling fire in the far north is that if the fire gets beyond the control of the ranger it is usually impossible to get assistance owing to the sparse population.

Equipment for fighting fires and preventive measures consist of the plowing or otherwise making of fire guards, the locating of fire fighting tools at convenient points, and the furnishing of easily transported tools, such as canvas water buckets, to the rangers.

Manitoba Has Suffered.

On the east side of Lake Winnipeg rock of the Laurentian formation intrudes from Northern Ontario and, skirting the lake to the north end, stretches over a great part of Northern Manitoba to Hudson Bay on the east and westward to a line running north-west from Limestone Bay on Lake Winnipeg, from which line limestone is the basic rock. With the exception of the large area of clay land on the Hudson Bay railway route and scattered valleys and prairies of small dimensions, the remainder of this area will be valuable only for timber growing, except in so far as mineral development may occur. Unfortunately at cycles of dry seasons these northern forests have suffered greatly from fire. The present stands seems to indicate that at periods of 80 and 40 years ago there were general conflagrant ones that swept over immense stretches of the forest, while smaller fires have occurred at more frequent intervals. The country is, however, covered practically everywhere with a growth of trees which, while generally yet too small to be of much utility, have great promise for the future. The stand on islands and places protected from fire of mature timber up to 24 inches in diameter, shows clearly the timber possibilities of the region and, with the water powers on the rivers flowing through it, industrial development there has possibilities that cannot easily be over-estimated.

Large Timber Cut Possible.

But the question will very properly be asked: Will the return for the expenditure for protection and reproduction of the forest be adequate?

In reply, the investigations made of the rate of growth of timber in the province of Manitoba compare favorably with the rates of growth in European countries, such as Germany, France and Sweden, where forestry is being practised profitably. The rotation, or the period required for maturing a crop of trees from seed, in Germany is with spruce and pine from 60 to 80 years. In Sweden the rotation is 60 to 80 years for pulpwood and 100 to 120 years for lumber. The investigations of rates of growth of spruce and pine so far as they have been carried out here indicate that on ordinary well-drained soil the period of rotation might be within similar limits.

The annual rate of production of timber in a European forest is from 250 feet board measure per acre up to as high as 1,000 feet board measure. If only a production of 100 feet board measure per annum were reached in the present Riding mountain, Duck mountain and Porcupine hills reserves in Manitoba, the aggregate area of which is 2,415,840 acres, which would mean an annual cut of 241,584,000 feet board measure, a cut equal to that of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta at the present time, and if the production were 200 feet board measure to the acre, it would be 483,168,000 which exceeds the present cut of lumber in Nova Scotia or in New Brunswick, and this includes only a portion of the old province of Manitoba, not considering at all the new area added in the north.