

FRUIT MARKS ACT HAS BEEN A SUCCESS.

Testimony by Prominent Dealer in Canadian Apples.

Under the above headlines the Montreal Daily Star of Nov. 10th, had the following report of an interview with Mr. Frank Hamilton of the firm Frank Hamilton & Co., one of the largest receivers of Canadian apples in Liverpool, who has been in Montreal during the shipping season, looking after his consignment, as well as those of Mr. Thos. Russell, Glasgow.

"When the Fruit Marks Act first became law," says Mr. Hamilton, "I had my doubts as to whether it could be worked successfully on account of the many conditions surrounding the fruit trade, but it has proved a success beyond all question. Speaking for the dealers on the other side, I may say, that owing to the lack of uniformity in a large number of trade marks used, and the irregular packing of Canadian apples, we were never sure of what we might expect to find in a package. It was possible to get a good barrel of fruit under a certain grade mark. It was also possible to get a barrel of 'trash' under the brand, so that the marks on the package counted for little. As it is now, with the marks fixed by law, when we purchase packages bearing the 'No. 1.' or 'XXX' brand, we are reasonably sure that we are getting an honest and fairly uniform 'pack'. This has had a tendency to inspire great confidence in the Canadian apple trade."

Speaking of the law from a Canadian standpoint, Mr. Hamilton said: "I have been a close observer of the work and I cannot speak too highly of the Montreal Fruit Inspectors. They have on their hands what I consider a difficult task, owing to the fact that they have had to pass judgement on the work of hundreds of different packers, and pronounce on varying qualities of fruit from the different sections of country. Sound judgement, common sense and prudence have characterized their actions from the beginning in administering the law fairly between the growers and shippers on one side and the consumers on the other. The inspectors, while taking a firm stand where glaring violations were apparent, showed the greatest courtesy and consideration towards the shippers by writing hundreds of letters on educational lines. It is a well known fact that there are a number of good shippers who, while they may have the best intentions, often find that their packers have violated the law, either through ignorance of its provisions, or carelessness. To prove this I could show a number of letters from my Ontario shippers, who express themselves as only too anxious to have their fruit inspected and the defects pointed out by the inspectors that they may remedy the same by instructing their packers."

In conclusion Mr. Hamilton said it is in the best interest of all concerned that a good, honest package of fruit be placed on the market.

The "Times" Black List.

Nearly every newspaper has its own code of customs governing grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization and phrasing, and the London Times has gone so far as to publish a handbook for the use of the members of its own staff. Pearson's Weekly gives some curious examples of the laws "The Thunderer" lays down for its writers. For instance they are never allowed to say, "Under the circumstances." According to the Times, "In the circumstances" is the phrase to be used.

An ordinary sentence written by an amateur journalist would probably be ruthlessly blue-penciled by a Times subeditor. The reporter might, perhaps, write something like this:

"Witness commenced by saying he had met deceased previous to going to Williams'."

It is not a pretty sentence, but it would pass muster in most quarters. A Times subeditor, however, might faint at the sight of it. From his point of view it contains no fewer than seven errors.

To begin with, the Times never refers to "witness," but always to "the witness. Secondly, it never uses the word "commence" but always "begin," a rule which good writers outside of the Times office also follow. "By saying he had" suggests an omission—the word "that." "Deceased" is on the Times black list, as it ought to be on that of every paper, and if reference is made to a person who has died, he is always mentioned as "the late Mr. Blunk."

"Previous to" is wrong. On the Times it must either be "previously to" or simply "before"—"previous to" being incorrect. Then "to going" is colloquial, but does not do for the Times. You must say "to his going." Finally, "Williams'" would not be printed, as in using the possessive of a word ending in "s" the Times always adds another "s"—thus: "Williams's."

When the sentence appeared in type it would read:

"The witness began by saying that he had met the late Mr. Blunk previously to his going to Williams's."

The word "applause," as frequently used in reports of speeches at a public meeting, is black-listed by the Times, which always employs the word "cheers." Another peculiarity of the Times's parliamentary reports is in the use of the first and third person.

An ordinary speech by a private member or a lesser minister will be reported in the third person, thus: "Mr. Brown said he had listened to the honorable member," and so on. Had Mr. Balfour, Mr. Chamberlain, Lord Lansdowne or Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman been speaking, the report would be given in the first person.

In writing of a blue book, most English newspapers begin both words with a capital letter. The Times capitalizes "Blue" alone. To illustrate its peculiarities of spelling, "parsimony" is according to the Times, "parcimony." The use of the word "I" except as uttered by a specified person, is black-listed, and a Times critic must write always in an "impersonal" fashion—the idea being, of course, that when the Times speaks it is not any particular individual, but an organized body of thought.

Survivals.

The natural boy's pursuit of frogs, birds, and woodchucks is an informal survival of a habit indispensable to primitive man. Hunting and fishing were the most necessary means of livelihood for savages. They are pursued now as sports as well as for livelihood, and there is good training in them when practiced merely as sports. They teach civilized man alertness, accuracy of observation, quickness of action, endurance and patience, just as they developed these valuable qualities in generations of savages who never knew what humanism, altruism and idealism were. The justification of unproductive athletic sports, like ball games, races of all sorts, and dancing, lies in the facts that they develop in civilized man some of the invaluable qualities which hunting and fishing developed in savages, and that they recreate and revive in people who lead the unnatural life of civilization the power for useful work.—"Atlantic Monthly."

Nations Compared.

A blue book dealing with the population of the nations was issued by the Board of Trade, says the London 'Express.'

One of the first tables shows the area, population and density of population. Among the most interesting are the following:

	Area	Population	Sq. M.
Russian empire.....	8,379,044	128,154,837	15.3
German empire.....	208,727	56,867,178	270.0
Holland.....	12,559	5,104,137	406.4
Belgium.....	11,370	6,693,548	588.7
France.....	204,321	38,961,945	190.7
Egypt proper.....	12,970	9,734,405	650.5
United States.....	3,567,371	76,303,387	21.4

The statistics deal with foreign countries only, and of these for some reason the country with the greatest population is left out. This is China, with 426,047,325. Among empires the greatest is the British, with over 11,000,000 square miles of area, and a population of over 396,000,000, second only to China.

A Christmas Card Worth Millions.

The most expensive Christmas card ever made was prepared by an English firm in Calcutta some years ago for the native ruler of Baroda, in the East Indies, and intended as a gift for a European lady of rank with whom the great man was in love. This card was a foot in length by ten inches in width and of flawless ivory, to obtain which over forty elephants were killed. Four of the most skillful carvers to be found were at work for six months on this magnificent present. When it was finished the eyesight of three of them was injured and the fourth man became blind. The engraving and carving they did were the representing of 10,000 of the stages of existence of Buddha. The card was ornamented around the edges, like a frame, with forty-four diamonds of the purest water, and each the size of a hazelnut. The cost was estimated at half a million pounds sterling. The lady never got her present, for the potentate was arrested for trying to poison the English resident, and the card disappeared.

Scalloped Oysters.

The Christmas dinner should include oysters. They may serve for an entree and are delicious scalloped or baked in a pie with the giblets. This is the way to prepare scalloped oysters;—Place in a shallow baking dish a layer of oysters; over this spread a layer of bread crumbs or crumbled crackers; sprinkle it with salt, pepper and bits of butter; alternate the layers until the dish is full, having crumbs on top, well dotted with bits of butter. Pour over the whole enough oyster juice to moisten it. Bake in a hot oven fifteen or twenty minutes or until browned.

Serve in the same dish in which it is baked. Individual scallop cups or shells may also be used, enough for one person being placed in each cup. Properly prepared, it is an excellent dish.—New York World.

Old Thompson.

Never did enthusiastic praises pass old Moses Thompson's lips. Commendation was heaped from him in hard, dry, and scanty chips. His approval of a measure, of a man, of anything Always had attached thereto what the vulgar call "a string."

Nothing won his admiration wholly; it was qualified. For the best that ever happened he'd a verdict cut and dried.

He would push his under lip out in a thoughtful way he has. And this pangyric utter: "Well, it ain't so measly bad."

"Oh!" and "Ah!" or "Goodness gracious!" he was never known to use.

As I said before, old Thompson nothing ever could "enthuse."

If he visited a circus, if he went to see a show, if he heard a famous singer—there was nothing that I know

That would please him absolutely. No, he'd clear his throat and say, When he'd pushed his nether lip out in that contemplative way:

"Well, I dunno as I'm sorry, and I dunno as I'm glad, That I came to see the critters, but they ain't so measly bad."

I remember once one Sunday that the sermon chanced to be

On the wonders of creation—of the earth and sky and sea—

Of the earth all clad in beauty, of the stars that shone by night,

Of the restless, throbbing ocean, and its majesty and might,

And old Thompson sat and listened, with his under lip stuck out,

To the glowing, moving discourse like a man who had some doubt

That creation was quite perfect, and—yes, sure enough, beaded!

He just spoke right out in meeting: "Well, it ain't so measly bad."

"Beyond the Chagres."

An American in the employ of the Panama Railway Company, in a poem entitled "Beyond the Chagres," thus describes the delights of that very region through which runs the canal route—

Beyond the Chagres River
Are paths that lead to death;
To fever's deadly breezes—
To malaria's poisonous breath!

Beyond the tropic foliage,
Where the alligator wails,
Is the palace of the devil—
His original estates.

Beyond the Chagres River,
'Tis said—the story's old—
Are paths that lead to mountains
Of purest virgin gold;

But 'tis my firm conviction,
Whatever tales may tell,
That beyond the Chagres River,
All paths lead straight to hell!

Ensley Humor.

"I have seen a good many amusing signs in front of places of business during my travels," said a visitor one day, "but while I was at Ensley I saw one in front of a saloon that particularly attracted my attention. It is especially appropriate for a saloon. In large, bold letters this is the welcome that passengers on the street car see as they ride past, 'All Nations Welcome but Carrie.'"—Exchange.

Points About a Dog.

One day a gentleman who was walking through a Scottish village saw a little girl standing beside a dog, crying bitterly. The gentleman went up and asked what was the matter with her. "That dog," sobbed the girl, "I'm fear't for!" "But it won't touch you," said the gentleman "See how it's wagging its tail!" "Ay," said the girl; "but it's no that end I'm fear't for."

As Defined.

"Say, papa," asked little Cordelia, "what is a woman called who thinks twice before she speaks?"

"She's what they call a mute, my dear," answered the knowing parent.

Amos Cummings called once to see President Harrison. When the interview was denied, greatly to his disgust, he expostulated with Halford, the President's secretary. "I am sorry, Mr. Cummings, but the President cannot be seen today," said Halford. "Great Heavens!" sputtered the Congressman, as he turned his back, has he got as small as that?"

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Used to It.

Jonah was giving the details of the episode. "But," they asked, "did your wife believe you when you said you had been three days in the whale?"

"Yes," he returned. "She said I had given her much more improbable excuses before."

With a happy smile he went down town to buy her a handsome present.—"Harper's Bazar."

Peace On Earth.

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old, familiar carols play
And wild and sweet
The words repeat

Of peace on earth, good will to men—
Longfellow.

Evening Un-dress.

"I hear Miss Orlrite 'came out' at the ball, the other night."

"I can quite believe it; I left early, and there was a good deal of her out then."

"Spell ferment and give its definition," requested the teacher. "F-e-r-m-e-n-t, to work," responded a diminutive maiden.

"Now place it in a sentence, so that I may be sure you understand its meaning," said the teacher. "In the summer I would rather play out of doors than ferment in the school-house," returned the small scholar.

Two girls are exchanging confidences.
First Girl—"Can a man love two girls at the same time—I mean honestly and truly?"

Second Girl—"Not if the girls get onto the fact!"

At the state banquet in London in honor of the king and queen of Italy, King Edward spoke of "Queen Alexandra and myself," while the Italian king said "Your cordial reception of me and my queen."

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Complete Cure for Bone Spavin.

Russell, Manitoba, Jan. 20, 1903.
Dr. B. J. Kendall Co., Gentlemen: I had to treat a young horse of mine four years ago which had a Bone Spavin and got kicked on the same leg and was very badly swollen; so that I had to bathe it in warm water, then applied Kendall's Spavin Cure. I had Typhoid Fever, the same winter and only gave the Kendall's Spavin Cure half a chance, and it only took one and a half bottles to cure his leg with very little treatment, and it did so completely that you would never know that he had a spavin; he never has gone lame since.
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6.45 A MIXED—Week days—for Houlton, McAdam, St. Stephen, St. Andrew, Fredericton, Saint John and East Bangor, Portland, Boston, etc. Palace Sleeper car McAdam to Halifax. Dining car McAdam to Truro.

9.05 A MIXED—Week days—for Aroostook, M. Jet, and intermediate points.

11.28 A EXPRESS—Week days—for Presque Isle, Edmundston, and all points North. River du Loup and Quebec.

12.30 P MIXED—Week days—for Fredericton, M. ton, etc., via Gibson Branch.

2.20 P MIXED—Week days—for Perth Jct. M. Plaster Rock and intermediate points.

5.59 P EXPRESS—Week days—for Houlton, M. Saint Stephen, Saint Andrews, Fredericton, Saint John and East; Vancouver, Sherbrooke, Montreal, and all points West, Northwest and on Pacific Coast; Bangor, Portland, Boston, etc. Palace Sleeper McAdam Jct. to Montreal. Pullman Sleeper McAdam Jct. to Boston.

ARRIVALS.

11.12 P. M.—MIXED—Week days, Fredericton, etc., via Gibson Branch.

11.28 A. M.—EXPRESS—Week days, from Saint John and East; Fredericton, St. Stephen, Houlton, Boston, Montreal, etc.

11.5 P. M.—MIXED—Week days, from Plaster Rock and intermediate points.

5.59 P. M.—EXPRESS—Week days, from Presque Isle, Caribou, Edmundston, etc.

7.30 P. M.—MIXED—Week days, from Aroostook Jct.

11.10 P. M.—MIXED—Week days, from Houlton, Fredericton, St. John and East; St. Stephen, St. Andrews, Bangor, Portland, Boston, etc.

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