

APPENDIX No. 1

Britain at the higher prices I have mentioned, there is no reason why peach growing cannot be extended very considerably. The development of the British market will require a great deal of care, and I am just a little afraid that with the results which I have given in view, careless growers and packers will endeavour to take advantage of the market and make a fizzle of it. There is a danger of that happening, for the trade will have to be very carefully handled.

By Mr. McLean (Huron):

Q. Peaches are a most profitable crop on the whole?

A. I think they would be considered such. No man would plant apple trees on good peach land in the Niagara district.

By Mr. Blain:

Q. Do you know anything about the total production of peaches in South Africa?

A. All I know is that they have during this past year shipped 23,000 cases to London. I have the Trade Commissioner's report but he does not give any figures as to the total peach production. I fancy that the London market, apart from their local market, is the only one they have.

Q. What I wish to ask, is the production of peaches in South Africa on the increase?

A. I think it is increasing very rapidly. South Africa shipped in 1906 only 7,000 packages, and the shipment has been increasing every year until last year it amounted to 23,000 packages. But while the production of South African peaches is increasing considerably, their peaches will never compete with ours, because they come on the market at a different season. All the shipments are finished by the month of April.

By Mr. Wilson (Lennox and Addington):

Q. Then the South African peaches reach London at a better season?

A. Yes, it is a better season to sell any high-priced fruit in London. They have this advantage, too, that the peaches are landed in England in cool weather and not exposed to a high temperature when they are taken out of cold storage as ours are. It was pretty warm when our peaches landed in England last year, and that is a disadvantage we have to contend with. Although the South African growers are farther away in point of time and the expense of shipping is considerably greater, they have some advantages that we do not enjoy.

By Mr. Thornton:

Q. The transportation rates, say from Hamilton or St. Catharines, to the Northwest, would be far higher than they would be from Hamilton or St. Catharines to London?

A. Yes, the freight rate is higher.

Q. That would be a factor against cultivating the Northwest trade?

A. Yes, but there is no reason why an immense trade cannot be done in the Northwest.

Q. When I was in British Columbia, the fruit growers of that province told me their transportation charges from British Columbia to the Saskatchewan market amounted to exactly what they got for the fruit.

A. Of course the rail carriage rate is always higher than the rate for water carriage.

By Mr. Sealey:

Q. Under the order of the Railway Commission the express rates for shipment from the Niagara district to Winnipeg have been reduced from \$2.65 to \$2, or a saving of 11 cents a basket. The railway company gives a very fast freight service