

EXPERIENCE IN SHIPPING APPLES TO BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. BOULTER, of Picton, read the following paper :

The subject assigned to me by your Secretary is one, I think, of vast importance to the fruit growers of Ontario, and, as all of us know, prior to the constructing of the band of steel now connecting us with this far away part of our Dominion, very little was known of this province. From all we could learn it was very rich in minerals and fish, that it possessed a beautiful climate, and great has been our anticipations since it has been brought into closer connections with its sister provinces to the east.

From personal experience, I know the subject I have selected will be well criticised as many persons who have interests at stake possibly will say I am wrong in my theory in saying that I believe Ontario will have to supply all the good winter apples this province will require. On my first trip in 1887 I paid a good deal of attention to the climate and the possibilities of fruit growing there. Three thousand miles away is a long haul by rail to ship apples for profit, and as my business is directly connected with fruit growing, I having sent the first car load of canned fruits and vegetables over the Rockies *via*. C. P. R. in 1886, which proved successful ; on my second trip I was determined to see if our winter apples, once introduced, would not come into demand. I was satisfied British Columbia could grow fine plums and pears, cherries, strawberries, raspberries, and some varieties of summer apples, but all the apple trees I saw were of a scraggy nature. The nights are too cool, and the weather is not warm enough to fully mature a good winter apple. In this I was borne out by a report from a horticultural association I saw published at Victoria in August, which said that after twenty-five years of trial they could not succeed in maturing fine flavored winter apples.

Our present Governor-General is spending large sums in the Okanagan district, believing that he can succeed. However, as he has plenty of money to spend, experience will teach him later on if he can be successful. In 1893 I sent out three car loads of the choicest Spys, Baldwins, Ben Davis and a few Golden Russets I could select, paying from \$2 to \$2.50 per barrel for them. As it was quite late, I sent them by the southern route—the Northern Pacific. They arrived in good shape and realized a fair profit at Victoria and Vancouver, and I was wired to forward two more cars of Northern Spys, but it was too late then to send a good article.

In 1894 I was earnestly requested to ship more, but the Legislature of British Columbia in that year passed a very stringent law regarding the importation of fruit liable in any way to be infected with any pests or fungous disease, and knowing that our fruit was not wholly clean from specks or fungus, I dropped out. But several cars were shipped, and on arrival were seized, and the total contents were destroyed.

The following extract from the Horticultural Board Act of British Columbia will explain :

Inspection of Imported Fruit.

"6. All importers of fruit must give notice to a member of the Board of Horticulture, or his agent, or the Inspector of Fruit Pests, upon the arrival of any and all shipments of fruit ; and all fruit and fruit packages imported into this province shall be inspected, and if found to be free from insect pests and fungous disease a clean certificate shall be issued therefor in conformity with the Rules and Regulations of the Provincial Board of Horticulture : Provided, however, that no fruit or fruit packages imported into this Province shall be removed from any dock, wharf, mole or station where such fruit and fruit packages have been landed before inspection and such clean certificate thereof shall have been obtained, and all such fruit and fruit packages as may be found infested with any insect pest or fungous disease shall be either destroyed by the importers thereof by such process as any member of this Board, the Inspector of Fruit Pests, or any agent appointed by this Board may direct, or shall be re-shipped by the importers thereof to the country from whence such infested fruit was exported.

"7. All be subject to with any inju ed at the exp may direct.

"8. All or plants with other package name of the p barrels contain quarters of an

On my not fit to be s of codling mo to remain in t promised a go disease would the apples at fifty pounds e several wholes carefully selec

I believe the utmost can be shipped in be made in sh sours, Oregon

Mr. BOUL Prince Edwar demand could

Mr. CAST

Mr. BOUL pounds to the

Mr. SMIT Russets and S

The SECR ever grown in

Mr. BOUL possibly they c vince of Britis

The SECR trees they can

Mr. BOUL that a tree tha

Mr. HUTT

Mr. BOUL send to the W some favored l you cannot gr Columbia you