

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FRUIT PULP.

BY W. BOULTER, PICTON.

You appointed a committee last year to take into consideration the shipping of our surplus fruit pulp to the old country. I had connected with me Rev. A. J. Andrewes and Mr. Alex. McNeill. I had shipped over some samples last year. In April I went over to England, and the parties who had been writing in regard to this fruit pulp were my own brokers in London, Messrs. Anderson & Coulton, I interviewed them in regard to it. I sent the letter over to our worthy secretary. I am not going to read that letter to you. The question was whether our raspberries could be successfully made into pulp and shipped over. We are not able to make jam in Canada and compete with the Englishmen. The idea is for him to get fruit, as he does, that does not cost him more than 5, 6 or 7 cents a pound. He wants to put as much sugar in it as he possibly can, because he buys the sugar for $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. a pound, and the more sugar he puts in the more profit he makes out of that pulp. I had a talk with my brokers, who had first introduced this subject, and I came to the conclusion it was rather precarious business. However, I came home about the first of June. When I left London the season had not been very favorable, a little too dry; the crop of raspberries was not likely to be very large. I wrote Mr McNeill that I was ready to go on and put up the goods; but I received no reply. I wrote again and received no reply. Mr. McNeill apologised to me that he did not write, and I said, "Well, perhaps you didn't because under the circumstances you thought the crop was going to be so light that it would not do to make any sacrifices and put it into pulp; you would make more money the way it was." That is about the sum and substance of the business this year; the crop was not so large that there would be any advantage to put it up and ship it to the old country. You heard Prof. Robertson say last year that if certain prices could not be realised there would not be much result. However, I came home and bought up a lot of the Shaffer raspberry. It is not a real good salable raspberry in Canada along side of the Cuthbert, but it makes splendid good pulp, it is good color. I put up fourteen tons of these raspberries into pulp, under the ordinary process, in gallon cans, the same as the gallon apples that you see exposed for sale. The brokers had written me that taking all things into consideration that was the most desirable package to send over. I sent samples of the goods over. The quotation Prof. Robertson gave you was from £20 to £30 per ton of 2240 lbs. The letter I received from the brokers says that the ordinary prices range from £18 to £20 per ton of 2240 lbs., and it was not till something like a week after that it jumped up to £40, sometimes to £50. Well, if we could get £40 a ton a little money would result to the grower of these berries at five cents a quart. However, there have been no such prices as that since we put up the goods. I wrote to Hon. Mr. Fisher, and he said as soon as Prof. Robertson got back he would correspond with me and see what could be done. In conversation with Prof. Robertson to-day he wished me to send over a ton to be distributed among the large buyers. I made the proposition to you to send your raspberries to me and I would put them up at actual cost. It would not have paid you this year to have done it, even to have sent them a mile or two miles from your place of growth, because if you can realise five cents a quart, don't take any chances of putting them up into pulp. It will not pay as the expenses in connection with it are so great and the chances and competition with the Australian, the French, and pulp from other countries naturally keeps the price low. I am holding these goods back simply because we could not get freight space at a reasonable price. The prices in January are likely to be better than they are now, and I shall report the actual result later on. I shall go on and put up goods even next year. Some

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