

As you all know, experiments have been carried on this season by the Federal Government, aided by leading fruit growers of this Association, in trying to solve the problem of landing our fruit in the English market in perfect condition. I believe that this problem has been pretty well solved, inasmuch as we know the requirements that are necessary to place our fruit in the English market and bring handsome returns.

It resolves itself into this—that only the best fruit must be sent, put up in small packages, carefully and well packed, and that our cold storage system must be so perfected that we can keep the temperature of the fruit, until it is landed in the market, not over thirty-four degrees.

Without going into detail, as our secretary has a full report, and will give you the results of the shipments, I may say this, that where the fruit has been kept properly cool, and put up in proper packages, the returns have been most satisfactory.

This matter is one that should receive the serious consideration of the fruit growers assembled, and I strongly favor committees being appointed to aid the Government in still further carrying out the experiments which have been inaugurated the past season. I am satisfied that success is before us, and that we may with confidence look forward to the future of fruit growing in Canada.

This matter of shipping properly cannot, however, be carried on in an erratic manner. There must be systematic organization, and supervision by competent officials, who will see that packages are properly put up, and that no inferior fruit is slipped into these packages. I am satisfied that one of the great causes of the poor returns which are obtained for fruit, is the fact that there is so much poor fruit thrown upon the market by people who would not take pains to cull the fruit, and who in their anxiety to sell everything they grew, whether first-class or otherwise, have not been careful in putting up their packages in an honest manner. Buying as I do, a large amount of fruit for my own use, in the market in Toronto, and being interested in fruit, examining packages as they are displayed in our fruit stores, I am satisfied that there is room for great improvement in this respect, and that while there are many honest dealers who put good fruit on the market, their honesty is discounted by the many who place inferior fruits and dishonest packages before the public. The suspicion with which people regard the packages, has a tendency to lower the prices, and I thoroughly believe that if we could have legislation in this respect, it would be of the greatest benefit to the fruit growers of this Province.

I leave this matter, however, to the consideration of the society, and I have no doubt it will receive the thought and attention which this subject demands.

Our fruit growers will watch with great interest the result of recent shipments to the West Indies. The enterprise of the shippers is greatly to be commended, and while there will be difficulties that are unexpected to be overcome, and no doubt losses to face in making experimental shipments, it is only by such pluck and enterprise that we can learn the requirements necessary to complete success.

The advantages and necessity of thorough spraying has been fully demonstrated the past season, as set forth in Mr. Orr's report, and it is therefore unnecessary for me to enlarge on the subject. That it pays has been shown; that it must be done if it pays is self-evident.

During the past year a new pest has invaded our country which is more dreaded than all others combined. It has been distributed throughout the Province of Ontario by trees imported from American nurseries, and fruit-growers have every reason to dread this terrible pest, and we must act in an energetic and thorough manner to rid ourselves of it. It cannot be accomplished, however, without aid from our Governments, which we have every reason to believe will be accorded us. The Ontario Government has acted in a very prompt manner, and in a way that I am sure will commend itself to the fruit-growers of the Province, and I believe, as far as it lies in its power, will do everything they can to stamp out this pest.

We must, however, have legislation at Ottawa to prevent the further importation of infected trees, and I would strongly impress upon this Association the necessity of organized action to bring before the Honorable Minister of Agriculture and members of

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