

APPENDIX No. 5

By Mr. Steele:

Q. Is it not a fact that many of the shippers from Ontario are merely acting as agents of wholesale dealers in the West? If so, who is responsible for the shipment of inferior grades of apples to the West.

A. The Western man is very largely responsible because he can always place himself in touch with reputable packers or growers in Ontario.

Q. From our part of the country they are nearly all agents of Western dealers.

A. Yes, the Western dealers pack tremendous quantities of fruit.

By Mr. Armstrong (Lambton):

Q. Do you find that serious losses result from the rough handling of fruit on the railways?

A. We find that they throw our fruit around in any way at all and it results in great losses, especially in peaches and plums. I would suggest that the fruit inspectors should also be made cargo inspectors. I am afraid I am going to increase their duties, but I cannot see why the fruit inspectors should not be in a position to prosecute a Railway Company for throwing our peaches and plums around and rendering them largely unmarketable, after we have spent months in taking care of the fruit.

Q. The farmer with a small orchard will have to go out of business unless some other arrangements are made to take care of his fruit?

A. There is no doubt about that. The small farmers are very much discouraged indeed.

By Mr. Steele:

Q. How would it do to have all fruits shipped to the West inspected at Winnipeg and Brandon?

A. That would mean that they would get all kinds of rubbish out there.

By Mr. Wright:

Q. Would not the fruit growers like to have their cars inspected?

A. The Apple Shippers' and various fruit growing Associations have asked for that time after time.

By Mr. Schaffner:

Q. They do inspect shipments in Halifax.

A. The same law that applies to Halifax also applies to us.

Hon. Mr. BURRELL.—Practically the whole of the Annapolis Valley apples go out by one port, and perhaps at one dock, where two or three inspectors can practically keep tab on everything.

By Mr. Webster:

Q. I do not know what your experience has been, but mine has been that the most careful inspector and best instructor is the chap who has put his money into the article.

A. Yes, there is no doubt about that.

Q. And is on the ground himself.

A. What about the poor fellow who is afraid to ship his apples and who has a small orchard?

Q. If he puts his apples up right he can sell them to the dealers.

A. The point I want to make is this: in Western Ontario I think fully 25 per cent of the apples went to waste, splended apples, the best of apples. The people were not organized in the shipping of those apples and no demand for them came. The result was they rotted, and the Western people lost the fruit which, under proper organization, they could have got at a reasonable price. They bought other fruit at a high price and the Ontario growers lost the fruit in their orchards.