

will assure the landing of our fruit in good condition. As there seems now little probability of securing reciprocity with the neighboring republic, these two things, cheaper freights and improved facilities, are more essential now than ever before, for yearly the cost of production is lessening and competition is becoming more keen. Our fruit growers must have equal opportunities in reaching the world's markets as their competitors have. We ask those whom we entrust with our affairs to secure these things for us, and we will overlook a multitude of sins in other directions: If this cannot be done through the instrumentality of the subsidy then let it be taken away from them entirely, and give all steamship companies a fair field and no favor. But for Heaven's sake do not continue to pay our money to these people if it secures us no advantage in return, and only helps to perpetuate a monopoly, by aiding them to buy off or crush out all opposition, as they have thus far successfully done.

In all cases a subsidized steamer carrying fruit ought to be subject to inspection by a representative of the department both when loading and discharging her cargo, and the proportion of subsidy for each trip should depend upon the condition in which the cargo is landed. The steamship people ought to be made to assume some of the risk, and pay some penalty for improper handling.

#### COLD STORAGE.

It will be possible for me to make but the briefest reference to the question of cold storage as my time is about exhausted. This is one of the most remarkable trade developments of recent years, and it is a thing that has come to stay. Through its instrumentality, perishable products of all kinds can now be kept for any desired length of time, while formerly they could be kept in their fresh state but for a day or so at most. The world's great centres of commerce and of population are now drawing their supplies of perishable products from the most distant, as well as near by sources, and by means of cold storage appliances these great centres are available as a market for the producers of distant continents and islands.

We are grateful to the Minister of Agriculture for the efforts he has thus far put forth to give the people of this province