

"My attention has been called more than once to the fact that many fruit growers packed fruit in a wet and over ripe condition. These conditions are very bad to the profitable shipment of fruit, even if it were to be shipped merely to your local market. The fruit should always be picked uniform in ripeness; and by all means you must have the cleats for the packages.

"Another suggestion: In many districts plum trees of a poor shipping variety have been planted, such as the Greengage. It would be greatly in the interest of such fruit growers if they would top graft better shipping varieties on to these. In some varieties a profitable crop of plums of the better varieties would be obtained the second year, while in no case should it require more than three years for them to yield a fair crop.

"In regard to loading and icing cars of fruit. I understand that in the past cars of plums, after having been iced, have been run with ventilators wide open. This is a mistake; all ventilators should be closed, and kept closed, except when being iced, to the end of the journey. The new refrigerator cars shown me by the C. P. R. authorities have icing capacity large enough for all shipments to the North-West, but it would be well to mention that the ice tanks must be refilled at every icing station from point of shipment to destination.

"I saw plum-rot in many places, the particular kinds affected being Peach, Bradshaw and Lombard plums. In no case should fruit from orchards infected by plum-rot be shipped to distant points.

"I would point out that it is altogether impossible to make satisfactory shipments of fruit, unless some person is given the authority, by those making the shipment, to throw out fruit destined for the car when improperly packed and graded.

"Yours truly,

"A. T. BASSFORD."

About the 17th August Mr. Tom Wilson, Pest Inspector, Vancouver, was sent to Manitoba and the North-West to carry out the work as recommended in clause 1 of the Executive Committee's report.

The following letters from Mr. Wilson constitute his report:—

"WINNIPEG, Man., August 28th, 1899.

"W. H. Hayward, Esq.:

"MY DEAR HAYWARD.—I have been expecting to hear from you for some time. I am entirely in the dark as to what you are doing. I heard from my wife last week that there had been a good deal of rain since I left, and I am sorry to say that I have seen what I take to be partly the effects of it on some British Columbia plums which arrived here this morning, consigned to the McPherson Fruit Co. I think, by the look of them, they were from——, of——, and although, I suppose, they would only be shipped by Saturday's express, they were in bad shape—more or less brown rot in almost every one of the ten cases.

"The fruit dealers here have everything to say in favour of Okanagan fruit, but up to date their experience with fruit from the Lower Mainland has not been happy. Then again, to refer to the packing of that particular ten cases which I saw this morning. It was simply beastly—the plums appeared to have been shoveled into the boxes. Now this will not do. If our product is to take its place on this market it has got to be put up in a shape that will attract attention. And certainly this stuff I saw this morning would have attracted attention, but it was because of its bad quality. Some of the plums had been very good, but no attempt had been made to grade them as to size; big and small had been slap-banged into the boxes indiscriminately, and the result is they are on the market for what they will bring. The shipper may get 25c. per case, but I don't think he will get any more.

"Yours truly,

"TOM WILSON."

"VICTORIA, September 19th, 1899.

"W. H. Hayward, Esq.

"MY DEAR HAYWARD.—I turned up this morning expecting to see you, but was disappointed. I called at Chilliwack, on my way down from the North-West, and saw Kipp. He was busy packing plums, and I advised him to make a shipment by express to Winnipeg, which he did on Saturday.

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