

APPENDIX No. 5

the area planted already it is estimated on a most conservative basis that in 1915 we will have 2,500 cars to ship and by 1920 we will have 10,000 cars to ship.

Mr. WINSLOW.—As against 800 cars now.

Mr. FOGGO.—As against about 800 now. Now gentlemen, our trouble is this that the market to which we looked to handle our stuff, at prices which we understood would be fair for the commodity we had to offer, has been swamped by American consigned goods. I have told you what we have shipped and what we estimate we will have to ship in the future and I want you to compare with some care the figures I am going to give you and these are the figures that we had from the other side of the line, and the estimate of what in the near future they are going to produce. I ask you to consider if we are in a bad state just now what our state is going to be when their area is producing to the full extent. What I have said regarding the increase in production in years to come in British Columbia applies with much greater force to the estimated increase, with absolute certainty, regarding the rate of increase from the States of Oregon, Washington, Montana and Idaho. According to the figures we have been able to get—figures collected with great care, figures published on the other side in the different States, figures kept by us obtained through the Provincial Government officials and accepted by people of consequence and position in the fruit growing industry on the other side of the line—there is at present planted in these States 285,000 acres of fruit. Gentlemen, in that huge area there is to-day out of that vast acreage—18,000 acres producing fruit. With 18,000 acres producing to-day they are swamping our markets, and in the near future they are going to have 285,000 acres producing. It is estimated that this year, I understand these are the correct figures, 1912, they have handled 15,000 cars; by 1915 they will have 50,000 cars and looking forward to 1920 they will then have 100,000 cars a year. Gentlemen, the States of Idaho, Montana, Washington and Oregon lie in exactly the same horticultural area as the British Columbia fruit growing district. The only markets that British Columbia fruit growers have, (they are restricted as to markets) are the Prairie Provinces; they have not an open market across the line and they have not (or they have to a certain extent only in which they are handicapped very seriously and materially,) a market in the old country; we are handicapped by the freight rates, the time it takes to send our fruit across and all that sort of thing.

Now, gentlemen, I want to impress this view upon you: if to-day our markets are glutted with American fruit when they have only 18,000 acres producing I ask you to think what the state of these markets is going to be when our product has increased on the lines I have pointed out to you, and when on the other side of the line instead of 18,000 acres they are going to have 285,000 acres producing fruit?

Gentlemen, we put our fruit upon the market in conformity with, as we are bound to, the Fruit Marks Act. I want to say something to you with regard to that Act. I understand that the Fruit Marks Act was originally passed to raise the standard of export fruit from Canada and to protect the buyer, the consignee in the outside market. The Act, in its application and administration, has been perverted from its original intention and is now in operation against Canadian growers in the home market: that is, we have got to pack in conformity with that Act and abide by the conditions. Now that bears unduly hard, unfairly and unjustly on the British Columbia packer because his opponent, his chief opponent, the American fruit growers, the only opponent that we are really entitled to complain against—and it is an opponent, not a competitor, as I will explain later—is not bound to pack in accordance with, and does not come under the Canadian Act, his stuff is not regulated by the Act under which we work. According to the Act there are two grades, Number One and Number Two. We pack in boxes and we have to pack the grade and stamp the boxes in conformity with that Act. We have to stamp our fruit Number One grade and Number Two grade, and we are not allowed to put anything else on the box.