

"The Coast Cities of British Columbia have been to a large extent supplied with apples from the States of Washington and Oregon at prices which completely discourage home production:

"British Columbia apples, as demonstrated by frequent awards in exhibition contests, are superior in quality to those of the Pacific Coast States:

"British Columbia buys annually from the Prairie Provinces about \$12,000,000 worth of grain and other agricultural products, and the destruction of the fruit industry in British Columbia would be largely injurious to Middle West commercial interests. The fostering of interprovincial trade, being one of the prime objects of Confederation, is vitally important to Canadian development:

"The wholesale fruit trade of the Pacific Coast States is highly organized as a combination of interests, and if the British Columbia industry were crippled the fruit markets of both British Columbia and the Middle West would be at their mercy:

"Canada has within her own borders an annual apple production ample to meet all her demands, and with the remarkable increase of output provided for and interprovincial competition, at prices just to the consumer:

"An increase in the protection afforded by the tariff to Canadian apple-growers would enable them to continue in an industry that is of immense consequence to the Dominion as shown by the value of annual apple production already reached:

"No new economic departure is involved, as the readjustment of the tariff from time to time to meet the requirements of the industrial development is the cardinal principle of Canadian fiscal policy:

"The grape-growing industry of the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario formerly suffered from conditions similar to those which affect apple-growing in British Columbia at the present time and was eventually ruined. The Canadian Government of ten years ago imposed a protective duty of 2 cents per pound upon imported grapes, and grape-growing was restored to prosperity and consumers have never yet since complained as to prices paid as a consequence:

"Therefore be it *Resolved*, That a humble petition be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting His Honour to urge upon the Government of the Dominion of Canada that the tariff schedule respecting fruits may be so amended during the next session of Federal Parliament as to afford increased protection necessary in the interests of the apple industry of the whole of Canada."

NOTE.—The resolution was prepared before the present session commenced, and the "next session" referred to is that now in session.

DEBATE ON MR. LUCAS'S RESOLUTION RE DUTY ON APPLES.

Mr. Alex. Lucas, M.P.P. for Yale, in moving the above resolution in the Assembly, stated that the case for the fruit industry was concisely and accurately outlined in the resolution. In this resolution it was aimed to place on record the views of the members in respect to one of the most important questions now confronting the country. In so doing there was involved no radical innovation or change in policy. Since 1878 the fiscal policy of Canada, under both parties, has been directed towards protection of Canadian industries, and the preservation of their products for Canadian markets. Delegations have frequently gone to Ottawa on such questions, and Provincial Legislatures have frequently passed resolutions in purport similar to this one.

The apple industry is now an important one in all parts of southern British Columbia, producing annually to the value of about \$1,000,000. The industry is fully justified by the demand for apples in Western Canada; and both Federal and Provincial Governments, in the expectation that, under fair competition, British Columbia apples would supply these requirements, had encouraged its development. But the great increase in production in the North-western States has materially modified conditions; these districts now using Western Canada (at a loss to themselves, it is true) as a dumping-ground for their large surplus not saleable in the United States. The fruit-jobbing trade use this surplus at low prices to hammer