

VEGETABLE GROWERS AND THE TARIFF

The Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association has definitely decided to have a deputation wait on the tariff commission, when it sits in Toronto, to ask for a change in the tariff on vegetables. The case for the growers will be presented by the Hon. J. W. St. John, M. L. A., and by Mr. A. Campbell, M. P., who will be supported by such well known growers as Messrs. W. A. Emory, of Aldershot, president of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association; W. H. Bunting, of St. Catharines; A. McMeans, of Brantford; J. L. Hilborn, of Leamington; a representative of the Toronto Vegetable Growers' Association, and by other leading growers.

During the past six weeks the secretary of the Ontario association has been in communication with the Departments of Trade and Commerce in Canada and the United States with the object of ascertaining the position of both countries in regard to the tariff. The information gained has been laid before the branch vegetable growers' associations throughout Ontario, each of which has been asked to prepare a statement showing the changes its members would like to see made in the tariff. A meeting of a special committee, appointed by the president of the Ontario association, to consider the replies from the branch associations and to adopt a line of action before the tariff commission, was held recently in Hamilton. Those present included Messrs. W. A. Emory, of Aldershot, the president; E. J. Mahoney, of Hamilton; A. McMeans, of Brantford; F. F. Reeves, of Humber Bay, and the secretary of the Ontario association. The reports from the branch associations throughout the province showed that the growers feel they would have no cause for

complaint were there free trade between the United States and Canada. As it is, however, the United States tariff is much higher on several lines of produce than is the Canadian tariff, which is felt to be a great injustice. It was decided, therefore, to make the cry of the association "Free trade or an equal tariff."

The need for an increased duty on several lines of vegetables, such as asparagus, green beans and watermelons, was realized, but owing to the fact that the number of growers producing these vegetables is limited, compared with the large number of people who consume such vegetables, the committee decided that it would be best to ask for an increase in the duty on only those vegetables which are the most largely produced in Canada and on which the United States competition is the most keenly felt. These include cabbages, cucumbers, celery, onions (dry), potatoes and tomatoes. The duty to be asked for on each of these vegetables was decided on. In no case will it be higher than the United States duty on similar lines of Canadian produce entering the States. In the case of cucumbers and tomatoes it was decided to ask for an ad valorem duty, but to stipulate that in no case will an invoice be accepted if marked, in the case of cucumbers, at less than 25 cents a dozen and in the case of tomatoes at one cent a pound.

It was decided not to ask for a duty which would prevent the importation of these vegetables into Canada, but which would be enough to prevent their being slaughtered on the Canadian markets at prices below the cost of production on this side of the line. The duty to be asked for will not be published until the tariff commission meets.

THE FRUIT SHIPMENTS TO WINNIPEG

The shipments of fruit to Winnipeg made by a few of the members of the St. Catharines Cold Storage Co. are still going forward at date of writing, October 25, at the rate of two cars per week, but they will end by the last of the month. The detailed statements of individual sales are not to hand for a number of the last cars, but the prices the fruit sold for are received twice a week by wire. The shippers have sifted down to about eight, who have stuck to their guns and have unbowed faith in the final result. Details will have to be held over until next month—but the shippers are unanimous in expressing the opinion that only cooperative associations can successfully hope to compete in the Winnipeg market.

Were the small shippers who forwarded fruit in the early cars without experience asked as to their opinion and the prices they received they would be very apt to say that the Winnipeg dealers are a set of thieves, but those who have stayed by the shipments throughout say unhesitatingly that the prices obtained are better on the whole than those paid on the Ontario markets, and so they should be, as more pains in packing are neces-

sary, as well as in selecting the fruit. The point they feel the most satisfied over is often overlooked by the ordinary shipper, and that is that the 30 carloads of fruit were kept off our own markets and thus helped to stiffen prices instead of to depress the Ontario market.

At the beginning of the season two or three of the shippers commenced to wrap and box their pears. They have kept it up and are now sending from 100 to 250 boxes in each car. These boxes are packed equal to the best Californias, and what is more satisfactory the prices received have paid the shippers well for their time and trouble. The boxes used are the American and British Columbia pear boxes holding 40 or 42 pounds of pears net, or 45 to 47 pounds gross. This box can be packed much better and more easily than the half case. The cost of wrapping and paper costs about 10 cents per box. The Ontario cars are now being looked for on sale days in Winnipeg, and the class of buyers is improving. The Department of Agriculture at Ottawa has been placing thermographs in the majority of the cars, and the records, with two exceptions, have been very satisfactory. In the case of the ex-