

As manager of that Railway, I am always ready and willing to meet the people in any reasonable request, and last year when the question of the transportation of apples was discussed at Halifax, it was suggested that the Railway should furnish better and warmer cars, and accordingly since then five thousand dollars have been spent in procuring such box cars. I trust that the prosperity of the country in the future may be such that the Railway may reckon on a more prosperous course than it has experienced in the past.

I must heartily thank you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, for the manner in which you have listened to these observations, and for the cordial reception you have given to this toast.

The next toast proposed was "*Our Guests*," the name of Dr. Higgins being coupled with this toast.

That gentleman on rising to respond, said: Mr. Chairman, I cannot help believing that you must have made a mistake in calling upon me, as I supposed I was here to listen, and did not imagine that you expected a speech from me, as you certainly understand that I don't make speeches. However, I can say that I am very glad to have the privilege of being here as the guest of this Society, and of listening to the able addresses of those who have preceded me, and I suppose I ought to be willing to make some compensation by attempting to say a few words myself.

I have been a member of this Association for a number of years, and I have endeavored to profit by the opportunities which I have had from time to time of meeting with this Society at their annual gathering, and once or twice before on occasions like the present.

I have been interested in observing the increase in the growth of fruit that is going on in this country, and which is becoming more noticeable every year.

I was impressed to-day when I went into your meeting to see such a well attended and representative gathering, and I could not help contrasting it with the little handful that I remember seeing there six or seven years ago. If the increase in attendance does in any fair way indicate the growth in these interests represented by this Association, then I think we may fairly assume that we are progressing at a decidedly rapid rate. I have no doubt that to a large extent that is the case, and that the interest in the growth of fruits has largely increased. Now that it has been found out that we are not confined to our local markets, but that the world is open