

Should Fruit Inspectors Give Out Certificates

SHOULD the Dominion fruit inspectors, after they have inspected packages of fruit, give the growers a copy of their report concerning it? This point was raised at the Dominion Fruit Conference held in Grimsby, Ont., September 2 to 4, and led to a lively discussion. It resulted finally in the conference adopting a resolution favoring the idea if the Government can arrange to do so without injury to the work of the fruit inspectors.

When the point was first raised Dominion Fruit Commissioner D. Johnson explained how the work of inspection is conducted. He said that Ontario has been divided into districts, but the districts are so large it is impossible for the fruit inspectors to get around as often as the growers seem to desire. This is because there are not enough inspectors.

Mr. P. W. Hodgetts, of Toronto, said that he had heard the suggestion made that if necessary fewer inspectors should be engaged permanently in order that more inspectors might be engaged temporarily during the shipping season.

Fruit Inspector C. W. Baxter pointed out that where a buyer was handling a lot of different packs the inspector might inspect only one pack. Were he to give a certificate for one pack it might not be representative of the other packs, and yet the dealer might use it to help to sell the other packs also. Some method of guarding this point would have to be found.

Mr. M. Snetsinger, of Thornbury, Ont., did not think this difficulty was likely to be serious, as each packer has to be responsible for all the packs he sells.

Mr. A. E. McMahon, Aylesford, N.S., pointed out that the inspectors have to re-

port to the Department of Agriculture on each lot of fruit they inspect. He thought that it was only fair that the packer should be given a copy of that report.

Mr. Elmer Lick, Oshawa, Ont., thought that it would be a good idea if an association or packer could get a report covering a lot of inspections showing them to have been packing a consistently uniform and high quality pack.

Prof. M. Cumming, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Nova Scotia, was in favor of copies of the inspector's reports being given to the packers, although there was a danger that the reports might be used as a guarantee of quality to help sell other fruit and thus lead possibly to law suits. This would have to be guarded against.

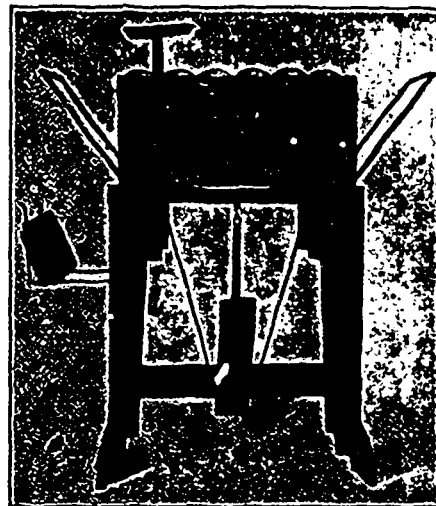
Mr. P. W. Hodgetts pointed out that Ontario fruit sent to the west sometimes deteriorates in the dealers' hand. He has it inspected there, and in some cases has used the inspector's reports when applying for rebates from the packers. If the packers had a copy of the inspector's report as obtained at their end of the line, it would in some cases serve to protect them. He felt that it would not be long before the trade would recognize that the reports were in no sense a guarantee of quality, but merely a report on conditions at the time of the inspector's visits.

Mr. A. E. Dewar, Charlottetown, P.E.I., was afraid that after the inspector left, dishonest packers would take advantage of the inspector's reports to use them in selling inferior lots of fruit that the inspector had not inspected.

Mr. A. W. Peart, Burlington, Ont., favored the suggestion that the inspectors should give the packers a copy of their reports

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