

*By Hon. Mr. Burrell:*

Q. I suppose the condition is peculiar in this way, that people have gone into fruit growing entirely, and not into general farming?

A. They have not gone into general farming.

Q. They have cultivated a comparatively small fruit acreage and they have no resources to fall back upon.

A. Yes. But this industry can be helped along lines that will make it a very valuable asset, not only provincially but from the broader point of view of the Dominion as a whole. If I say it myself, this industry has brought into the country a good class of people. (Pointing to the Minister of Agriculture.)

Mr. THOBURN.—I thought you were going to say, 'Present company excepted'.

Mr. FOGGO.—I think it would be better to put it the other way. The Honourable, the Minister of Agriculture is above the standard. Seriously, the people engaged in this industry are at the limit of their resources. The outlook under present conditions is not hopeful. I am convinced that nothing we can do in that province, on the lines of organization, or on a co-operative or any other basis, is going to help us to salvation because our difficulty is beyond our power to remedy. We are incapable of handling it. We are incapable in a sense that it requires outside assistance. We do not control these markets, and we have to ask you to put us back in the position that was assured us as to these markets.

*By Mr. Thoburn:*

Q. What was that position?

A. That we had unlimited markets at our own door, which could take every bit of the fruit we could possibly produce.

*By Mr. Douglas:*

Q. Do you mean to say that any government could assure you of anything of that nature?

A. Not with a legal binding contract, but surely there is a moral obligation to endeavour to keep conditions up to the standard that was advertised.

*By Mr. Thoburn:*

Q. Have you made any suggestion to this Committee as to what you want? I was not here at the beginning of your remarks.

A. I might make this suggestion, if I am permitted: The logical remedy is to raise the duty.

Q. How much?

A. Raise it to 25 cents on apples.

Q. A box?

A. Yes, a box. If that be considered an impossible thing, although it is the natural conclusion that anyone would arrive at, that if an industry in a protected country is not sufficiently protected, further protection should be granted; it might be done in the way of bounties, and it could be done—at least we could be assisted—by enforcing the Fruit Marks Act and inspecting along rigid lines that will bear as heavily on the United States grower as it does on us. At present the enforcement of the Act does not touch the American; while it bears heavily on ourselves. I do not think that is an unfair demand.

Mr. THORNTON.—That would help considerably.

Mr. FOGGO.—It would certainly help considerably if you make as rigid inspection, and make the conditions as rigid as to the boxes of fruit that come in from the American side as we have to live up to under our statute. If you do that you are going to help. And if you go further in the administration of the Act, and in the enforcement of these conditions and these regulations and the necessary inspection and impose a