

paper of his as a joke, and we have been so dull that we have not found out his meaning. It has dawned on me for some time back that we might have seen it at the outset; for here is he a member of this Association, and yet his intimation is that the proper place for us is the penitentiary! (Laughter). Now it is quite clear that what he intended us to understand was that there is a field for this Association, and that is to point out that you cannot produce too much of good fruit. (Hear, hear). This is the whole point. Mr. Shepherd indicated it very clearly in his experience with the Fameuse apple. He could get splendid prices for them if, only the right steps are taken to bring the apple from the orchard to the tables of the consumers;—and it is a blessing that a word or two has been said on behalf of the poor consumer. I happen to be only a consumer, and I say I would have eaten a great deal more fruit this year even than I did, only that my experience was the same as Prof. Short's. The fact is it is almost the same with fruit as it is with eggs—if you once get a bad egg you don't eat another for a month. (Laughter). So you buy one basket of peaches or a barrel of apples, and you find the top ones good and all below very bad, and you get so disgusted that you fall back on your common chop and resolve to go without fruit. We could eat a great deal more fruit than we do if the fruit was only of the best quality and brought to the consumer, especially in the great markets, in such a way that he takes delight in it. Now what is needed is that steps should be taken along these lines. For instance, I have heard of one man in this Province who shipped 40,000 barrels of apples this year, and yet he did not make as much as Mr. Shepherd made out of one box—less in fact. (Laughter). And why? Chiefly because of the awful sinners in Montreal. (Laughter). There are not sufficient facilities there. For instance, on one occasion it was arranged that a great quantity should go by steamer, and they were sent in time, but there was some block or delay at the railway station, and as there was not another steamer, for some time, they were spoilt and had to be dumped into the harbor. Then again we have not got agencies in London that we should have, and that Mr. Shepherd referred to, or we have not taken the trouble to get into direct communication with stores such as the Army and Navy stores in London, and instead of that we allow the commission merchants to get the immense profits that we do. I think it is quite clear that the paper that was read was not meant at all to say that there are too many fruit trees or too much production. We have heard that cry all along the line. We are told that there are too many potatoes produced—(laughter)—that there is too much wheat produced, and we don't get a living price for wheat. And then manufacturers tell us that there is too much production of cotton and woollens, although all the time people only half-clad and half-fed. (Laughter). And yet we are hearing the cry of over-production! This is all nonsense—there is nothing like over-production in any one of these things. I, as a consumer, so think because I want to get them reasonably cheap so as to get enough of them; and you can only manage that, not by limiting the quantity of fruit produced, but by having the very best kinds, and that is what this Association is for, to show what is the best kind, what is the best way to get it into market in Canada and abroad; and I wish that there was ten times as much fruit produced in Canada as there is, for I believe that this is one of the very best countries in the world for apple production. I have eaten apples in almost every country in the world, and I do not know any country in the world where the apple is so good as it is in Canada. (Hear, hear and applause). And if arrangements are only made to get fruit in right shape to the best markets, and if we only raise the best kinds, there is almost no limit to the development that there can be all over Canada. You get peculiar kinds in different provinces. What Mr. Boulter says is true about British Columbia not producing certain kinds of apples; still they produce some kinds very well. The Northwest Provinces do not, but in Nova Scotia you can get Gravensteins the like of which I have eaten in no other country in the world. Then the Fameuse is the original habitant of Quebec because it was brought from France by the Sulpicians. But the great work of this Association is to go on doubling and quadrupling the production of good apples and seeing that these are got to the tables of the poor consumer. (Applause).

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