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Preparations Made for Important Fruit Legislation

Standards Agreed Upon for Fruit Packages. New Grades for Fruit Defined. Power of Fruit Inspectors Likely to be Increased

WHAT promises to be a memorable gathering of fruit-growers took place in Ottawa, March 26th and 27th, when representatives of the fruit-growing interests in the leading fruit provinces of Canada, government officials, and basket manufacturers met at the invitation of the Dominion Fruit Commissioner, and with the approval of the Dominion Minister of Agriculture, to recommend long-deferred legislation in the interests of the fruit industry. A surprising amount of important work was accomplished during the two days' series of meetings. More real progress being made in a direction of obtaining definite legislation dealing with important matters than has been accomplished in the past 12 or 15 years, and at several conferences of the past.

In opening the conference, Mr. D. Johnston, Dominion Fruit Commissioner, explained that there was a need for the passing of important legislation at the time the war broke out, but owing to the war, the Government did not feel disposed to take action. As some of these matters require action he had taken the matter up recently with Hon. T. A. Crerar, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, who had given his approval of the holding of the conference, and his assurance that he would be willing to press for needed legislation at the present session of Parliament.

The fruit growers who attended the conference, were unanimous in their desire to allow minor differences of opinion to drop out of sight in order that definite results might be accomplished. This accorded for the most part, and the conference was closed this afternoon. The following is a brief statement of some of the important decisions arrived at.

A New Barrel Standard.

It was decided to recommend the Government to make the American apple barrel the standard barrel for Canada also. At present there is no standard barrel for Canada other than a requirement that the barrel shall contain as nearly as possible, 85 quarts, and be not less than 36 1/2 inches between the heads. The result has been that Nova Scotia has used a small barrel, while Ontario has used a considerably larger barrel, having the 39 inch staves. The American barrel is slightly smaller than the Ontario barrel and a little larger than the Nova Scotia barrel. Its staves will be 2 1/2 inches in length, the distance between the heads will be 26 inches, and the circumference at the middle, 64 inches. The head diameter will be 17 1/2 inches. This will give a uniform apple barrel for the whole country.

The New Apple Box and Crate.

For some 15 years the standard Canadian apple box has been 10" x 11" x 20". Its use has been obligatory for the export trade, but not for the domestic trade. In British Columbia many growers have used what is known as the Washington or Oregon box, and what is sometimes called the American box. They have preferred it to the Canadian box. It was decided to make this the standard box for the domestic and export trade in Canada. Its dimensions are 18 1/2" x 11 1/4" x 10 1/4". It is an easier box to pack and to ship.

During the past four or five years a new package has come into use in Ontario in what is known as an apple crate. This is not a closed package, the sides being composed of staves, and thus it has not come under the regulations of the fruit Marks Act, relating to closed packages. Hitherto there

has been no standard apple crate, and many different kinds of crates have been used. It was decided to recommend that a standard apple crate be established which shall conform in dimensions and size to the standard apple box, but shall be at least three quarters of an inch apart.

Standard Baskets.

Hitherto, a great variety of baskets had been used more particularly in the sale of tender fruits, such as peaches and grapes. These baskets have been made in many different ways, of different sizes and material. A committee was appointed some years ago by the Ontario Fruit Growers to take steps to standardize the baskets that should be used. The manufacturers were consulted. It was understood that the manufacturers were in favor of action being taken, but these representatives at the meeting at Ottawa objected to the making of the proposed changes but the fruit growers decided unanimously to disregard their objections as they felt the same part, not justified. It was decided to recommend that hereafter there shall be only two sizes of baskets legal, one an eleven quart basket and the other a six quart basket. The dimensions of the bottom, handle and veneer all C-patented. This will do away with the nine quart basket which has been extensively used hitherto.

Peach and Pear Boxes.

The following three sizes of peach boxes were agreed upon, these to be the only legal boxes for use in Canada; one 18" x 11 1/4" x 4 1/2", one 18" x 11 1/4" x 4", and one 18" x 11 1/4" x 3 1/2". This accorded to recommend that the legal Ontario pear box should be 18" x 11 1/4" x 7 3/8" (inside measure). The legal prune box was set at 18" x 11 1/4" x 3 1/2".

Grades of Apples.

Under the Fruit Marks Act at present three grades of fruit are defined; a fancy, a number one and a number two. It was decided to eliminate the fancy grade as it has been found to have no commercial importance. Number one grade will remain as it has been hitherto. The following definition was prepared for number two grade: "No. 2 quality shall not include culls and shall be sound, of nearly medium size and be properly packed for the variety, and be not less than 85% free from scab, worm holes, bruises and other defects, and shall be properly packed." Hitherto the percentage has been 80% and there was no size requirement.

It was decided to establish a new grade to be known as a Domestic Grade. It will be defined as follows: "Such fruit shall not include any culls, be sound, of not less than nearly medium size for the variety, 85% free from worm holes, but may be slightly affected with scabs and other minor defects and be properly packed." It was decided to prepare to establish a number three grade which will be defined to include no culls and be properly packed. The definition of the word cull was left with the Dominion Fruit Division to be prepared.

Property Filled Packages.

Considerable trouble has been caused in the past through some growers marketing packages of fruit that have not been sufficiently well filled. In some cases also, retailers and dealers have received unfilled packages and made a larger number of packages by not filling the packages so well. It was decided to recommend that all packages of fruit

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Trade inc...

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THE whole of undertaking selves, incl they should go to of such action joint conference gained farmers business interest Parliament Bill. The conference The discussions The farmers a presentation of strong that repre frankly complain which they had a

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