

The Co-operative Movement in Nova Scotia

The history of co-operation in the packing and disposal of fruit in this province has been much the same as in other provinces. The necessity has arisen from the fact that the producer gets too small a percentage of the consumer's price.

In Nova Scotia, however, fruit has never been handled with as little reference or profit to the growers as in some parts of Ontario. As I understand the situation in the latter province, a great deal of the fruit is or has been sold treed run, or by the lump, so much being given for the fruit on an orchard, the buyer or speculator doing the picking, packing, etc.

This would be considered an evil, or, rather, a crop of evils, which has not arisen to any extent in Nova Scotia. Another rumored evil in Ontario, which has not been very successfully tried in our province, is the understanding supposed to exist among different buyers to each take a certain territory to himself, leaving the producer practically without the benefits of competition.

This is simply to show that the necessity of co-operation in Nova Scotia, while present, has not been as apparent to the ordinary producer as elsewhere. As a result of the competition among shippers and buyers, Nova Scotians have averaged through the years rather larger prices than in the sister province. The commercial bond between these shippers has been growing stronger, however, and the situation worse for the farmer, until, in this year of lean crops, the wolves on both sides of the Atlantic have, in their hunger for trade, lost some of their fellowship, with the result of good prices to the producer.

History of the Movement

In 1906 a few farmers in the western end of Annapolis Valley tried to co-operate in shipping apples. They lacked the business enterprise to form a joint-stock company, and sought to hold the organization together by signatures to a paper promising to ship a certain number of apples through the association. The looseness of the organization killed it. The speculators jumped on it, and, by prevarication, misrepresentation and ridicule, scattered its members. To Herwick, which, by the way, exported \$5,000 barrels of apples in 1909, or about one-eighth of the export from the whole province, belongs the honor of starting successful co-operation. The Herwick orchardists felt that they might as well have the 75 cents to \$1 per barrel for their own use, which had been lining the pockets of the middlemen, whose sole interest in the producer was to use him as a stepping-stone to wealth. Feeling that a joint-stock company was too exacting in its demands, and that a simple agreement amongst themselves was too loose for success, an act was produced in the local house "To facilitate the incorporation of Farmers' Fruit, Produce and Warehouse Associations."

Since this act is the basis of organization of all the associations which have been successful, I will give a summary of its principal clauses:

- Five or more persons may form a company to buy, sell, deal in fruit and farm produce, or to operate warehouses, by subscribing to a memo of association provided for the purpose, witnessed before a justice of the peace.
- This Memorandum of Association shall be registered by the registrar of joint-stock companies, who shall certify that the company is incorporated.
- The capital stock of any such company shall not be less than five hundred dollars, one-half of which must be subscribed.
- The directorate shall consist of from three to seven persons, the subscribers being directors until others are appointed.
- Election of directors annually.
- Each shareholder shall have one vote at all meetings for each share held by him, all questions being determined by a majority of voters.
- Officers shall be appointed by the directors.

14. The company shall have power to make, amend or repeal any bylaws not contrary to the provisions of the act, and shall send notice of such changes to the registrar.

15. Any shareholder's stock may be cancelled by the directors on neglect to pay any calls payable upon his shares.

16. A shareholder shall only be personally liable to the extent of the value of his shares.

17. No fee for incorporation or annual registration fee shall be payable by any company incorporated under this act.

The last clause is the most important from a point of success, since the farmer hates to put out money for the privilege of forming a company.

If the ordinary farmer can join a company for nothing, with an immediate likelihood of having to pay out cash, he is more willing to join than if there were initial expenditures. In the operation of these companies very little or no actual cash is advanced. Warehouses are rented or built. When built, they are mortgaged, and the interest and part principal, as well as all running expenses, are taken pro rata from the proceeds from sale of fruit. Each subscriber puts in his apples as they come from the trees. They are sorted into Fancy, No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, and culls, and sold or otherwise disposed of. From the total amount received is deducted cost of packing and his proportion of all other expenses, and the net proceeds handed to him.

Thus, each shareholder's apples are handled to the best advantage by intelligent, practical packers, without any worrying to himself. Each year the expenses are met, and the capital account for warehouse, etc., is gradually reduced, without being felt by the producer.

In ordinary years only Fancy, No. 1 and No. 2 are exported, the remainder going to the evaporator or cider mill. This year, however, good prices have been realized for No. 3's.

Following are some prices netted to the growers by the association at Herwick this year:

	Fancy	No.1	No.2	No.3
Gravensteins	\$3.75	\$3.39	\$2.25	\$1.33
Emperors	2.73	2.69	1.22	
Wolf River	3.13	2.69	1.89	1.32
Kings	4.18	3.93	2.79	1.78
Blenheims	3.58	2.84	2.44	1.40

Stockmen & Farmers Read This

CREDIT SALE

Grand View Stock Farm, herd of noted Shorthorns, also horses, implements, household effects, etc., will be sold by Auction May 10th. The proprietor has leased his farm, consisting of 1/2 section, an ideal farm as to location, soil and improvements, 3 1/2 miles from Innisfail, 4 miles from Bowden. The farm will be sold subject to lease and reserve figure. This will be an opportunity to secure at your own figures the choicest lot of Shorthorns, male and female, ever offered in the West, the breeding of one breeder. Several championships stand to the credit of the herd, which at present consists of (10) ten young bulls, (40) forty females, the dams being all good milkers. Also herd bull, Bonnie Favorite, 72992, dark red, bred in the purple, and has proven a sure getter of the right sort. Fit to head any herd in Canada, age 3 years, twice Alberta Champion and the get of Grand Champion Dam, a Strathallan and a show cow. Females also have been winners and there are a good many more here to offer. For further particulars as to terms address

JAMES WILSON, Proprietor

GRAND VIEW STOCK FARM

INNISFAIL, ALTA.

DON'T FORGET DATE

These are for the early apples. As high as \$5 per barrel has been netted for Golden Russets and Spies and later varieties.

The companies subscribe from five to ten thousand dollars, and pay 10 per cent. calls yearly on capital account.

At Herwick each member subscribed \$500, and they have been paying 5 per cent. calls yearly out of the sales proceeds. Here they have built a warehouse costing \$3,000 and an evaporator costing \$1,600.

A central organization is being organized to combine the operations of all the companies for the strengthening of the movement and getting better rates and prices. The following associations are in operation at present: Herwick, Kingston, Round Hill, Port Williams, Percan, Aylesford, Lawrence-town, Sheffield Mills, Waterville, Middleton.

The factors necessary to a successful association are a good manager who has the confidence of the shareholders; confidence in the organization, doing away with all petty jealousies; each member must feel personally responsible for the success of the association, and work toward that end.

DYNAMITING STUMPS

Dynamite is put up in sticks, 1/2 pound

to the stick, size 1 inch in diameter by 8 inches long. It is set off by a cap that is attached to a piece of fuse and inserted in the stick of dynamite.

The dynamite should be placed in the ground directly under the centre of the stump and about as deep in the ground below the bottom of the stump as the diameter of the stump. Get the dynamite well down in the ground.

To make the hole for the dynamite a common crow-bar may be used or a two inch carpenter auger with the shank elongated to four feet.

It is not necessary to cut any of the roots before the blast. If a sufficient amount of dynamite is used and the charge properly placed the stump will be entirely removed.

TRACTION ENGINEERS' SHORT COURSE

The annual short course in traction engineering at Manitoba Agricultural college will be held this year from June 13 to July 1. Arrangements are being made by which students may take either or both gasoline and steam engineering. The course is intended to be of use to those who wish to learn how to operate farm power machinery. Those who desire information concerning the course should write to the Agricultural college, Winnipeg, for fuller particulars.

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This is a Farmers' organization and no attention will be paid to requests for stock unless proof that the applicant is a farmer accompanies the application.

WRITE TODAY FOR PARTICULARS AS THERE ARE ONLY A FEW SHARES LEFT

CANADIAN STOVER GASOLINE ENGINE CO., Ltd.

130, 9th Street

BRANDON, Manitoba