Fruit Growers In Session

Two Sittings Were Held Yesterday of the Provincial Association.

Interesting Addresses and Valuable Annual Reports Were Presented.

Officers Elected For Ensuing Year And Much Business Transacted.

The annual convention of the Fruit Growers' Association of British Columbia opened in the City Hall at 2 p.m. yesterday, with the following in attendance: M. Baker, H. E. Maycock, J. E. Musgrave, E. B. Maynard, M. Miller, J. Duff, J. R. Anderson (deputy minister of agriculture), R. M. Palmer, H. W. Raymer, H. Kipp, Jos. Whelptin, J. B. Cade, W. J. Kirby, Maxwell Smith, D. Matheson, Thos. Brydon, John Stewart, F. Sere, C. T. Higginson, Rev. Geo. W. Taylor, W. C. Duncan.

At the afternoon session, His Worship Mayor McCandless delivered a brief address of welcome. He was followed by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, who expressed his hearty sympathy with the association, and his hope that their efforts to place the industry on a good basis would succeed. The major portion of the afternoon session was given over to the reading of the annual reports and the election of officers. A session was held in the evening, at which very interesting addresses were delivered by Rev. G. W. Taylor and Maxwell Smith.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The proceedings opened a little after 2:30 p. m.

Mayor McCandless delivered a short address of welcome. He was pleased to see a number of the farmers from the Institute meeting present, as fruit growing and farming went hand in hand. He extended a cordial welcome to the delegates, and hoped that their stay would be pleasant and profitable. Fruit growing could be developed, he thought, to an enormous extent in view of the tremendous development of the Northwest. In fact he thought that all in British Columbia might look forward to an era of prosperity. As regarded the manner in which the fruit is now being packed by British Columbia growers, he noticed a marked improvement. He thought the packing of fruit was something to which the farmer ought to pay particular attention. He trusted that as a result of their deliberations the industry would be placed on a better basis. (Applause.)

THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor was greeted with applause on taking the platform. He considered the past two weeks to have been memorable ones in the history of British Columbia—in the gathering of the Miners' the Farmers and the Fruit Growers. He looked upon them as practically all one meeting, as the interests of all were so closely intertwined. It was admitted that the rewards of farming were very great. It was hoped that ultimately the farmers of British Columbia would be able to supply all the needs of the province. In regard to fruit growing there was every opportunity in British Columbia of growing fruit of the best quality and in abundance. Great care, however, was required in the protection of the trees against the attacks of insects. The attention of the farmer must be addressed to that very closely, and, besides, the trees must be protected against the trespass of cattle. Above all things, the growing of a tree was good labor if it were properly attended to. The packing of fruit was, of course, a matter of supreme importance if the fruit grower was to get the full advantage of his industry. The only way to succeed is to pay particular attention to details, and he hoped the good experience which they had already acquired would enable them to do even better for the future. (Applause.)

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded his honor.

Mr. Cunningham regretted that the Minister of Agriculture had not been invited. He moved that an official invitation be sent to him to be present. The motion carried.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The president then delivered his address. He said:

To the Officers and Members of the B. C. Fruit Growers' Association.

Gentlemen,—As I understand this is the thirteenth annual meeting of the association, and in reviewing shortly the work of the association, and particularly the past season, I do so with pleasure and confidence as to the future as I think we are making marked progress. The association in its inception was mainly educational and instructive, but latterly more attention, at the request of our members, has been given to the commercial or marketing side of the work, at the same time the educational side has not been overlooked as both are necessary to its success. The work has been energetically prosecuted and faithfully carried out by each and all of the officers of the association. The following was outlined in part at the commencement of the past season.

1. Sending exhibit to Winnipeg.
2. Expert packer for the province.
3. Furnishing judges for the fruit department of the agricultural fairs throughout the province.
4. Supplying Bradstreets reports to members on the standing of dealers in the different provinces.
5. Sending one or more cars of fruit to Manitoba and the Territories.

The first item sending exhibit of fruit to Winnipeg, was a marked success in the way of advertising the possibilities of fruit growing in this province, particularly at this time, when the great rush of settlers to the province of Manitoba and the Territories, but a report by the delegates will be laid before you at this meeting with full information.

2. Expert packer for the province: The very marked improvement in grading, packing and shipping was evidenced by the commendations heard from buyers and dealers handling the fruit shipped by the association and other parties showing the necessity and benefit derived from the institutions given by the expert at various points throughout the province. The reports from places visited has been most satisfactory as to the benefit derived and work accomplished.

3. The furnishing of judges of fruit by the association to the agricultural fairs throughout the province has met with their approval and given general satisfaction.

4. The supplying of Bradstreets' reports on the standing of buyers and dealers in fruit, etc., in the provinces to the members has been of great value in preventing the sale and shipment of fruit to irresponsible parties in many cases.

5. The sending of one or more cars of fruit to Manitoba and the Territories, has demonstrated the fact as to the vast and expanding markets we have in these provinces at our command for the sale of our fruit at profitable prices if we, as fruit growers, exert ourselves to do so. As growers we must greatly increase our areas and quantities of fruit grown at the present time. We are not keeping pace in the production with the increased consumption and demand, much less supplying former requirements. There must be an aggressive policy pursued on the part of our fruit growers to command the trade of these markets at this time. American fruit growers and growers of the Eastern provinces are giving great attention to these particular markets at present from the fact that they grow little or no fruit themselves, and the very rapid development of the country. Permit me to give you an example or two of the aggressiveness pursued on the part of California fruit growers. The announcement from San Jose, California, to the effect that a solid train of Santa Clara Valley prunes has been started for Europe. The shipment consisted of 35 cars, the value of same was estimated at $60,000. It is of interest to note that some of the fruit was consigned to Bordeaux, France. This seems like carrying coals to Newcastle. From the mere fact that an opening has been found in the original home of the fruit, is a feather in the cap of the California fruit grower. The time was when French prunes were extensively imported into that country, but the quality of the article now being produced on the Pacific Coast has been improved so much of late years that the French have not only lost the American market, but have been to a great extent ousted from European markets. Another example. How is it possible for California to ship to the Eastern states the vast shipments they do. Last year they shipped 20,387 carloads of oranges and lemons, 1,458 cars of cherries, apricots, peaches and pears, and the shipments from California are increasing yearly. These shipments do not include Idaho, Washington and Oregon. You ask, how can this be possible? The answer is, that California fruit growers are proficient in their business. They have devoted a large portion of their lives to one particular branch of fruit growing, and these men spare no expense in cultivating, fertilizing, picking, grading, packing and marketing, and are able after long experience to put their fruit on the market in a much more attractive condition than those fruits put up by Eastern fruit growers, who do not as yet fully appreciate the necessity of putting upon the market a high grade class of fruit put up in the best possible manner. These examples show the urgent necessity of greater attention on the part of our fruit growers to their business in all its details. We have a splendid market in the province of Manitoba and the Territories. We export less than one hundred cars of apples from this province, and I understand that about two hundred and sixty-five carloads of fruit arrived in Winnipeg from Ontario during the month of November and possibly ninety per cent. of that was apples. This shows the great necessity of increasing the output of fruit in this province to supply the demand there. I would advise our fruit growers to plant larger areas to fruit varieties adapted to their locality at the same time bearing in mind the requirements of these markets. Make it a point to grow the best and give greater attention to all the details from start to finish in growing your fruit. In respect to transportation it is not up to what we require as fruit growers at the present time. It is an absolute necessity that we have a better service on the part of our carriers of fruit to ensure success in placing our products on these markets. Better cars, shorter time en route, stricter attention in transit is what is required. If this can be done it will ensure to the carriers of our fruit a larger volume of trade and to our growers increased prices by placing their products in better condition upon these markets. Our interests are mutual in this business, and it is to be hoped for that our carriers of fruit will see to it that we get a better service for the future than we have had in the past. The markets are there, and it remains for us as fruit growers with the co-operation of our carriers to say whether we shall command the trade or not or permit it to be controlled by fruit growers elsewhere. I hope our growers will rise to the requirements of the situation at this time and make strenuous efforts to command the trade of these markets. The Government and the association have done all that could be expected of them in our behalf. They will no doubt further assist us in many ways, but the work rests with us to keep ourselves active and prompt, and if we do so we will reap the benefit in larger sales and increased prices.

The president was loudly applauded on concluding.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

EXECUTIVE'S REPORT.

The Executive committee reported as follows:

To the Press and Directors of the B. C. Fruit Growers' Association.

Gentlemen,—Your executive committee beg to report that pursuant to your instructions received at the quarterly meeting held in this city on the 2nd of April last, your committee have endeavored to carry out the same with the following results: The question of an expert packer early engaged the attention of your committee. Men having the necessary qualifications for this kind of work are in great demand in the Pacific Coast States, and at one time it looked as if it would be impossible to obtain the services of an expert. We finally succeeded in securing the services of Mr. W. T. Jenks of Salem, Oregon, who, it is gratifying to learn, gave universal satisfaction.

The exhibit at Winnipeg, R. M. Palmer; shipping, J. C. Metcalfe.

In reference to marketing, the committee thought it advisable to send circulars to dealers in the Northwest Territories and Manitoba, drawing their attention to the various sections of the province where fruit could be obtained. One thousand of these circulars were sent out, and the very large number of inquiries for names of growers is sufficient evidence of their utility for the increase and extension of our trade. We are of the opinion that this is one of the best mediums by which to advertise our fruit. Having decided to ship carload lots from Chilliwack, the committee thought it advisable to put in a spur at the Harrison River station to deep water to obviate the necessity for using trucks to handle the fruit.

The subscription to Bradstreet's Agency has been much appreciated by the members and an increasing number have availed themselves of the information to be found therein.

The committee recommended to the directors at the quarterly meeting held in Kamloops, that the Constitution and By-Laws be amended by striking out "and Horticultural Society" from the name of the association. Also leaving the manner of advertising the annual meeting to the executive committee instead of in certain specified newspapers.

THOS. G. EARLE.

The report was adopted.

WINNIPEG EXHIBITION.

R. M. Palmer next made his report on the Winnipeg exhibition. It was as follows:

To the Officers and Members of the B.C. Fruit Growers' Association.

As your delegates appointed to attend the annual exhibition of the Western Horticultural Society, held in Winnipeg, August 27th, 28th and 29th, 1902, with an exhibit of British Columbia fruit, we beg to report that the exhibits were collected from different portions of the province, and were fairly representative of the fruits in season at the time, comprising a total of about 6,000 pounds.

Through the kindness and courtesy of the officers of the Western Horticultural Society, excellent facilities were available for a full display of the fruit, and photographs of the exhibit were taken which show plainly the arrangement of the different fruits on the stands and platform, where it was displayed. Copies of these photographs are on hand for any person to see who wishes.

Previous to the opening of the exhibition to the public, the wholesale fruit merchants of Winnipeg viewed the B. C. fruit exhibit, and after carefully looking over the fruit and examining the methods of packing, expressed themselves as very pleased both with the quality of the fruit and the way it was packed for market, and assured your delegates that there was practically an unlimited market for fruit of the character.

The exhibition was largely attended after its formal opening, especially in the evenings, and we may safely state that the B. C. fruit exhibit was the principal object of attraction. Your delegates were kept busily engaged answering questions in regard to B. C. and the fruit industry generally. A good deal of fruit was distributed gratis to visitors to the exhibition and to prominent citizens of Winnipeg.

After carefully considering various suggested methods of disposing of the fruit on hand at the close of the exhibition, your delegates decided that in order to insure its widest possible distribution, the fruit should be disposed of by public auction in small lots. There was very spirited competition at the sale, and we believe that its object was fully accomplished. Very good prices were realized for all lots, excepting a few cases of plums, which were in bad condition.

Apples sold at prices ranging from $1.00 to $2.85 per box, according to quality and appearance of the respective lots, the highest price fruit coming from Mr. W. O. Grant, Victoria, and Mr. J. W. Sterling, Kelowna. Pears ranged from $1.40 to $2.80 per box. It was noticeable that slack packed boxes of pears sold for much less in comparison than those which were well filled, the variation in price being more due to this than to difference in quality of the respective lots. Mr. Sterling fruits realizing the higher prices. Plums ranged in price from $1.75 to $2.50 per crate, the highest price being realized for a crate sent by Mr. Alex. Campbell, Mt. Tolmie. Peaches sold at from $2.25 to $2.60 per 20 lb. box, coming from Mr. C. A. R. Lambly, Penticton. Crab apples sold at from $1 to $1.25 per crate of 20 lbs. Total net amount realized from sale of fruit was $160.45, as shown in the financial statement submitted, covering the expenses of the exhibit.

We venture to state that the fruit growing and fruit shipping interests of B. C. have been materially advanced as a result of this exhibit, from day to day during the exhibition very favorable press notices were given concerning it in the Winnipeg daily and commercial papers, and British Columbia fruit has received more effective advertising than could have been obtained in any other way.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. C. METCALFE.
R. M. PALMER.

The report was adopted.

THE SHIPPING REPORT

The shipping report was next taken up. It was as follows:

To the Officers and Members of the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association.

Gentlemen,—I submit herewith a short report of cars of fruit packed and loaded by your Association and consigned to myself at different points in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories with the view of determining the carrying quantities of our fruit when packed and loaded under proper conditions, and further, as to the extent and possibilities of these markets for the sale of our fruit and also as to current prices for the same.

These cars were packed and loaded under the supervision of an expert packer brought in by the Association from Salem, Oregon. The packing of fruit was much improved over former years, as testimony was borne to this by parties receiving fruit. But there certainly is much room for improvement yet in this respect because in doing so we do away with the oft-repeated charge made against us of short weight in crates. Fruit will fail to the ground and gradually disappear as we give greater attention to the packing of our fruits. Cars were all that could be desired in the matter of loading, only I would suggest here that fruits, such as pears that have a tendency to ripen quickly after being picked, be loaded next to bunkers and at bottom of cars; fruits slower in ripening, such as apples, be loaded in centre, where mixed carloads are being shipped.

Three carloads were shipped under the auspices of the Association and consigned to the following points: 1st car, Wolseley; 2nd car, Souris; 3rd car, Melita, and were all about the same time in transit, 7 days. The 4th car from Vancouver Island and consigned direct to the MacPherson Fruit Co., Winnipeg, and by them forwarded to Holland in Southern Manitoba, was eight days to Winnipeg, and four days more to Holland, in all twelve. All these cars with the exception of the first car, Wolseley, arrived in almost perfect condition, 1st car, Wolseley, had not been iced after leaving North Bend; 2nd car, Souris, was iced at Medicine Hat; 3rd car, Melita, had not been iced in transit after leaving point of shipment. There was no ice in bunkers of Wolseley and Melita cars on arrival. Car Souris had possibly 100 lbs. in each bunker on arrival, practically none as far as any benefit is concerned. Car from Victoria to Winnipeg, and forwarded to Holland, had been iced at North Bend and then at Winnipeg before being forwarded to Holland. Had practically none on arrival at Winnipeg, but had considerable ice on arrival at Holland. Weather was cool and possibly had been iced just before leaving Winnipeg. It being a short run of 85 miles. Plum rot was evident to some extent in first car, Wolseley, and in some cars growers had used crates with baskets to pack club apples. This is to be discouraged, as they are deceptive as to weight and are not used anywhere for that purpose. Always use standard boxes or crates. Our Bartlett pears still present that irregularity in shape and russeted patches in appearance, but if wrapped as they should always be and properly packed, will not affect their sale to any great extent if in good condition on arrival.

Now, in respect to the extent of these markets and the possibilities of extension, it is extremely encouraging to note calgary, Edmonton, Medicine Hat, Regina, Indian Head, Qu'Appelle, Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Winnipeg and other places are points where fruit can be handed in carloads, whilst the smaller towns east and west, north and south, can be supplied by distributing from the larger points. I find a very increased demand for B. C. fruit everywhere this season, owing in truly to the superior flavor of our fruit over American. I also find very many points where they have not been able to obtain fruit heretofore, asking for and buying British Columbia fruit to such an extent that we are unable to supply the demand to a very small degree, particularly in plums, pears, prunes, crab apples and small fruits. The country is developing rapidly, people with money are coming in and buying up land everywhere, many branch lines of railway are built, more under construction and way are built, more under construction and be at the present time that we are not heretofore for the sale of our fruit.

Now, in view of these facts, the outlook for the fruit growers of this province is particularly bright and promising in having these vast and increasing markets, comparatively speaking, so close to us and unable in a commercial way to grow any variety of fruit for their own consumption. We as fruit growers hardly realize the great and magnificent market there is in these provinces within our own confederated Canada, and it behooves us as fruit growers to wake up to the fact and make every endeavor to command and retain these markets for the sale of our various kinds of fruit.

1st. By growing those varieties of fruit required in these markets.

2nd. By spraying and other means to have clean fruit.

3rd. By grading and packing carefully and honestly.

4th. By using clean, standard packages and putting our fruit up in an attractive form.

5th. By care in marketing, handling and loading of cars for shipment.

6th. By asking and insisting on our carriers of fruit for better refrigerator cars, shorter time in transit and attention to examining and icing of cars by someone whose duty it is to do so at icing stations throughout the trip.

Now, in conclusion, I may state for our growers, if we desire to command and extend our fruit trade in these markets, it is absolutely necessary for us to give attention to all the details outlined in this report. If we do so we will find a ready sale and an ever increasing demand for our fruit as the seasons come and go at a fair price and profit to us as growers. While on the other hand, neglect to all the details will result in discouragement and loss.

Now to repeat in respect to transportation, it is absolutely necessary that our carriers of fruit assist us in the matter if we are to achieve success.

1st. By furnishing us with better refrigerator cars.

2nd. By an expedited service.

3rd. By stricter attention on route of cars, re-examining and icing of same by some one appointed for the purpose. At the present time apparently it doesn't seem to be anybody's duty to do so. It would be better even if we as shippers had to guarantee a fixed charge for the same so as to absolutely ensure attention to icing in transit.

If these things can be attained to on the part of our growers and carriers, our market is assured and that with a profit to us as fruit growers in this province.

J. C. METCALFE.

The report was adopted.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The secretary's report was then read. It was as follows

To the President and Directors British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association.

Gentlemen,—In presenting this report I am aware that I am breaking away from the procedure in the past, but as the executive commissioners' report does not cover all the work of the Association during the year just past, I may be permitted to make a few remarks on the work of the Association as a whole. In the first place I am pleased to be able to tell you that as an evidence of the greater interest that is being taken in the work of the Association the membership has increased from 78 to 161, and with two or three exceptions, all are actively engaged in the work of fruit growing, whereas in former years the membership was made up largely of professional and business men who had no actual interest in the business of fruit growing.

The increase of membership is not, however, the only evidence of an awakening to their interest by the growers in the different sections of the province. The large number of letters from parties seeking information on the various subjects connected with the industry as compared with the correspondence on the same subjects in past years, is tangible proof of the increased interest that is being taken.

It is very gratifying indeed to know that the seed sown by this Association is now bearing fruit. People who contemplate planting do not, as in the past, plant a tree of every variety in the catalogue. They now enquire what varieties will best suit their localities, and in this connection I would suggest that the list of varieties recommended by this Association some years ago be amended, as it is quite certain that increased experience has taught us that some of those varieties might be omitted and others added with profit to the grower.

As an evidence of the growth of the industry the shipments carried by the Dominion Express company for the past season show an increase over those of the year 1901 of 10,831 packages, and an increase in weight of 21,726 lbs., and the increase in the sale of fruit packages by the B. C. Manufacturing company amounts to about 100 per cent.

Another suggestion I would make is that we urge the Dominion government to establish a small experimental orchard in the dry belt. We are all aware that the result of the experiments carried on at Agassiz are not applicable to the interior in a great many cases. I regret very much that our coast growers do not profit as they might from the experiments so ably carried on by Mr. Sharpe.

To the perseverance of this Association is largely due the appointment of the inspector under the Fruit Marks Acts in this province. The result of that appointment is largely apparent in the increased price obtainable for first class fruit.

The 5 per cent discount on fruit packages from the B. C. Manufacturing company is also the work of the Association.

One piece of work mentioned in the report of ex-commissioners, I may be permitted to enlarge upon is the spur at Harrison river. When it was decided to ship from that point it was thought best to have the track continued to the water's edge so that the fruit could be put in the cars without using trucks (the leaving of the truck being fatal to soft fruit.) It was first necessary to obtain the permission of the Mill company, and then to get the C. P. R. to lay down the rails. Before this work was completed it became necessary for your secretary to make two trips to Harrison and to spend two days additional in Vancouver before the consent of the C. P. R. could be obtained to lay the rails. An immense quantity of slabs and sawdust, averaging six feet deep, for upwards of fifty feet, had to be removed, entailing considerable cost, the total for labor, sleepers and ties amounting to upwards of $80. Then the question arose as to who should pay for this outlay, and it was thought only fair that as the fruit growers of Chilliwack would reap all the benefit, that they should pay for it, and it was accordingly charged up to the three cars shipped by the Association. Six cars have been shipped over the spur this season, one before ours and two since.

It is my painful duty to record the death of two members during the past year, James Crozier of Kelowna, and W. Nelson of Hammond.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all the officers and members for the kindly manner in which I have been assisted during the past year. My thanks are particularly due to Mr. Anderson, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and Messrs. Palmer, Metcalfe and Kipp, for kindly advice and assistance in the discharge of my duty, which I trust has been done to your satisfaction.

The report was adopted.

The financial statement was then presented, as follows:

RECEIPTS.

Cash in bank Jan. 21st, 1902	$ 493 98
Cash in hand	26 50
Government grant	1,250 00
Winnipeg exhibit	378 85
Shipping	1,351 08
Members' fees	126 50
General account	8 77
	$3,635 68

EXPENDITURE.

General expenses	$ 199 60
Shipping account	1,783 54
Postage and stationery	162 43
Secretary's salary	250 00
Judging	234 45
Winnipeg exhibit	407 69
Executive committee	187 40
Expert packers	377 00
Cash in Bank of Montreal	33 87
	$3,635 68

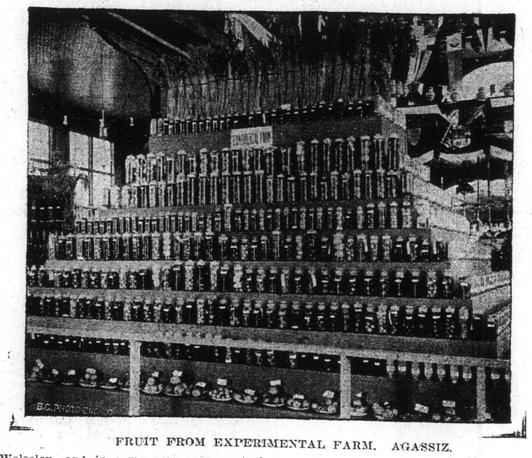
W. J. BRANDRITH,
Secy.-Treas.

W. E. Norris, the auditor, suggested, in a letter, the appointment of a committee to examine the books. He resigned the position of auditor. A committee consisting of Messrs. Raymur and Palmer were appointed.

Election of officers was next proceeded with, Mr. Anderson presiding during the election.

The election resulted as follows: President, J. C. Metcalfe; first vice-president, Henry Kipp; second vice-president, W. C. Grant; third vice-president, Donald Matheson; secretary-treasurer, W. J. Brandrith. The old board of executive was re-elected.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p. m.



FRUIT FROM EXPERIMENTAL FARM, AGASSIZ.

EVENING SESSION.

The evening session opened at 7:45.

Rev. Geo. W. Taylor was called upon to deliver an address on "Insects—Friends and Foes of the Fruit Growers." His address was very instructive and entertaining, being enriched with many anecdotes and witticisms. He supposed everybody had some knowledge nowadays of entomology. Insects as a class were of very great interest because of their enormous numbers—99 per cent. of all the living creatures on the earth were insects. The structure of insects was one of the most wonderful things in nature. They were of great economic importance. The damage they did to the fruit grower and farmer was almost incredible. At the present time the loss to the world caused by insects was hundreds of millions of dollars. Prof. A. J. Smith calculates that in the state of New Jersey the insects take 25 per cent. of all the crops grown. He did not know of any substance which was not attacked by the insects. But many were distinctly beneficial. Dr. Harvard had divided them into family groups—300 of them. If anything, the good insects outnumbered the bad ones. Some of them acted as scavengers. There were other insects which serve us with food—the honey bee, for instance, and the locusts in South Africa. Some of them were also useful in the arts and sciences. Some of them helped up in this way—the good prey upon the bad. At every turn the farmer came in contact with insect life. How was the fruit grower to know which were friendly and which were not? He was liable to kill his best friend and help his worst foe. He told a story illustrating how a farmer had killed one of his best friends in ignorance, a certain wasp which built a small nest in the twigs of trees, and stored up bugs, which were an enemy to the farmer, for food. This showed that the wasp was really a friend of the farmer. Of course it was difficult for the farmer to know his friends from his foes, as they differed so much in their habits. But the matter was simplified by classing them in groups—and if they knew the family groups in which to place them, they could in a sense separate the good from the bad. All the immense array of insects might be classed into orders. Scientists made the number of orders ranging from 8 to 22. The principal orders were only 7 in number. They might be divided into two series in the way in which they took their food—4 of them took their food in a liquid state, by sucking up the juices. The other three were of biting insects. It was useful to bear in mind that distinction, as when dealing with a biting insect, they could poison its food. In regard to sucking insects, they could be killed with corrosive substances.

He next told of the changes through which the grubs and insects went—tracing the metamorphosis of the grub to insect life.

No practical fruit grower could study all this for himself—it was the work of scientists and entomologists—in the United States there were 100 or more of the latter. They were doing excellent work, indeed. In Canada there was only one. First, the insects must be studied, then they must be fought. There were one or two general principles—a healthy tree was better able to withstand loss of a branch than a weak tree—hence it paid the farmer to keep trees in a healthy condition. If one crop was found to be assaulted each year, they should try rotation crops. Of course the fruit grower could not do this, but the farmer could. The fruit grower's only remedy was to poison the food. There were a number they could not get at, and in those it was hard to know what to do with the latter. But the best friend in this regard was nature itself, which after a year of ravages by insects, it provided a check. When the farmer planted a large crop of any one thing, nature provided an insect to prey upon that food; but as it would not do to lay down the rails. Before this work was completed it became necessary for your secretary to make two trips to Harrison and to spend two days additional in Vancouver before the consent of the C. P. R. could

Boundary country some fruit from Washington which was abominably packed. He gave many practical hints showing how the act might be observed and the fruit packer have no difficulty in his work.

It paid to comply strictly with the act. That British Columbia was going to have a great future as a fruit producing country he was certain—perhaps it would ultimately outstride all its rivals; it would do that in variety at all events. A great market was growing up in the Northwest and the British Columbia growers could not possibly keep up with it. He was no pessimist—British Columbia could compete with anybody, and the development of Canada was going on so rapidly it would be disloyal to say that we could not compete with the people to the South. Advantage should be taken of their experience, but we need not give into them.

M. Baker said he had listened attentively to what Mr. Smith had said, but the fruit growers were in a quandary over the regulations. All apples in Canada had more than 10 per cent. of Codlin moths. He characterized the Dominion Act as a pest. The law in British Columbia was good enough. The officials did not give the fruit handler any latitude. He did not agree that the Government should have taken this stand. As regards apples, British Columbia grew the best on the continent of America—as soon as they came to maturity they were fit for use—that was not the case with apples in other portions of the Dominion.

Mr. Smith in reply said Mr. Baker was laboring under a misapprehension. The act did not say the apples must have 10 per cent. of codlin moth. It said they must be 90 per cent. free from blemishes, etc. Both Governments did not go at the people both at once. The Dominion Government was simply answering a cry to protect the honest grower.

Mr. Anderson, regarding packing, said he was in Spokane only a few days ago, and a gentleman had given demonstrations in packing which opened his eyes. British Columbia was much behind in the matter of packing. There could be no doubt about it. Fruit sent to England might be said to be sold mainly by the excellence of the packing. The California case was a good one, and British Columbia might have to adopt it before long. Too much importance could not be attached to the subject of packing.

Mr. Cunningham said it was well to remember that great strides had been made during the last two years, great strides had been made in the matter of packing—in the Okanagan Valley the packing was as good as any in the world. The growers should persevere, and there was a disposition on the part of everybody to do better in the future. Men were now taking up fruit growing as a specific industry. A trained fruit grower in the Okanagan Valley six years ago was working for $25 per month. He took hold of a ranch three years ago and by using up-to-date methods he sold $7,000 worth of crop last year. (Applause.)

Mr. Brandrith said the Fruit Marks' Act gave a splendid security to the purchaser—not only the fruit grower benefitted by the act. It was one of the most important on the statutes of Canada.

Mr. Kipp said the subject should be threshed out. He had all along been fighting to have the boxes marked. Perhaps the act affected the dealer, but the difficulty could be got over. When apples were got from over the line they should be packed according to the act. He was pleased with the good audience and had learned very much. (Applause.)

A resolution was then moved approving of having the services of the Dominion inspector continued during the entire year. It carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned until 10 o'clock this morning.

LE ROI No. 2.

Preparations for the Erection of Mine's Concentrating Plant.

Rossland, March 4.—The Le Roi No. 2 concentrating plant will be under way as soon as the snow goes off sufficiently to select the exact site on the ground just purchased West of the company's ground. The plant is being constructed in England, and will be delivered here between the 1st and 15th of April. The total cost of the 50-ton plant now projected will be $25,000.

BRITISH SHIPPING.

Should Alone Enjoy the Empire's Seaboard Trade.

London, March 3.—Speaking at the annual meeting of the Glasgow Ship-owners' Association, Nathaniel Dunlop, chairman of the Allan Steamship line, denounced the British shipping laws, which, he said, gave United States shipping all the advantages of British shipping, while the United States kept the whole of her coast as a reserve to herself. British maritime supremacy, Mr. Dunlop added, was endangered by the resolve of the great United States railroads to do their own carrying trade on land and sea. It would transfer the North Atlantic trade of private shipowners to the United States railroads, and they would later extend to the trade routes of the Far East. Great Britain should declare her seaboard trade to be an Empire trade in which only the vessels of those nations who open their reserve trades to British ships should share.

THE COMING SESSION.

Record Number of Private Bills Applied For at Ottawa.

Ottawa, Ont., March 4.—(Special.)—Private bill legislation in the coming session promises to be the largest on record. Already 148 applications are recorded.

Dr. Milne arrived here today.

Mr. Galliher, M. P., has arrived for the session, and says another silver-lead delegation will be here at the end of the week.

GALWAY ELECTION.

Nomination Takes Place Next Monday —Devlin Likely to Be Choice.

Toronto, March 4.—The News London cable says: Nomination in Galway is fixed for the ninth instant, and polling, if any, for the 13th. So far there is no opposition to Mr. Devlin. J. A. Smart, deputy minister of the interior, is now in Dublin conferring with Mr. Devlin as a result of instructions received from Hon. Clifford Sifton. Mr. Devlin says he intends holding both positions, and asserts he can serve Canada even better than he has previously done by becoming a member of parliament.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

Appropriation Made by French Chamber of Deputies.

Paris, March 4.—The Chamber of Deputies, continuing the debate on the budget for the Ministry of Finance, adopted tonight an appropriation of $200,000 a year for increasing the old age pensions paid by the mining companies to their miners and employees. It is expected today's appropriation will bring the pension to which a miner is entitled on reaching the superannuation age from $11 to $72. The measure was a part of the Socialist programme, and is avowedly the first step in the direction of providing old age pensions for all the working classes.

Not one in twenty are free from some little ailment caused by inaction of the liver. Use Carter's Little Liver Pills. The result will be a pleasant surprise. They give positive relief.

Invasion Of Canada

Colonel Kitson Points Out Necessity of Having Better Defences.

Only One Arsenal at Quebec Would Prove of Great Disadvantage.

Begs People of Dominion to Support Lord Dundonald in Reforms.

Montreal, March 5.—The Star's London cable says: At the dinner of the Canadian Club last night, Admiral Fremantle, in speaking, urged Canadians to remember that they had considerable at stake in the Empire, which rested on its naval strength, towards which Canada gave nothing, though he thoroughly agreed that Canadians could not be expected to contribute to the Empire's defences till the government had a voice in the management of the Empire.

Col. Kitson, formerly British military attache at Washington, and now commandant of the Sandhurst Military College, in a speech in the Canada Club last night, under the chairmanship of Lord Strathcona, said:

"Fortunately at present the possibility of trouble is further off than ever, but I assure you that Canadians would enter a campaign under the greatest strategical disadvantages. You will be very lucky in Upper Canada if you have any ammunition. The United States regular army, quartered on the frontier, would be ready to raid your lines of communication, which lie along the frontier. Your only arsenal is at Quebec at the end of the line.

"Without better organization and without any arsenal in the interior, you will never be safe from raids."

He begged the Canadians to support Lord Dundonald, who is now commanding the Canadian militia.

Lord Strathcona, replying to Admiral Fremantle, said it must not be forgotten that the colonies required time to develop. Canada had done a great deal for the protection of the Mother Country and herself, by building the Canadian Pacific railroad, by filling her vacant lands with brave defenders of British interests. He reminded Col. Kitson that another arsenal was being built at Ottawa, which is at some distance from the frontier.

RAILWAY SUBSIDIES.

Dominion Government Will Consult Supporters About Grand Trunk.

Ottawa, March 5.—(Special)—The government is greatly impressed by the manifestation of feeling all over the country against more railway subsidies and will consult the Liberal party in caucus before reaching a decision regarding the Grand Trunk Pacific.

FENIAN RAID MEDALS.

About Seventeen Thousand Have Been Issued to Veterans.

Ottawa, March 5.—(Special)—Applications for Fenian Raid medals will not be entertained after next month. Col. Smith, of the medals claim board, says quite a number of applications for medals were coming in. Up to the present there have been something over 17,000 medals issued and about 1,000 long-service medals.

ESTIMATES FOR IMPERIAL ARMY

Hundred and Seventy One Million Dollars Including South Africa.

London, March 5.—The British army estimates for 1903-4 issued this evening call for a total expenditure of $171,225,000, and provide for 235,761 men, exclusive of the troops in India. The estimates include $20,000,000 for special expenditures in connection with South Africa.

DOMINION BOARD OF HEALTH.

Deputation of Doctors Urges Its Formation on Government.

Ottawa, March 5.—(Special)—A deputation consisting of Dr. Roddick, M.P., Dr. Lachapelle of Montreal, and Dr. E. Powell of Ottawa, waited upon the Premier today and urged the formation of a Dominion board of health.

The Royal Society of Canada will hold its next general meeting in this city March 18.

THE TARIFF.

General Meeting of Manufacturers' Association Will Discuss It.

Toronto, March 5.—The tariff committee of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, which for several months past has been dealing with the question of tariff, appears to have completed its labors. It has been decided now to call a general meeting of the association to discuss the proposed tariff changes and arrange for presenting their views before the Government at Ottawa.

TO HAVE OPPOSITION.

Mr. Devlin Not to Be Sole Candidate in Galway.

Montreal, March 5.—The Witness London cable says the nomination of Chas. R. Devlin, Canadian Immigration Agent, in Dublin, as Nationalist candidate for Galway, is not as unanimous as was at first reported, and it is likely another Nationalist will be nominated to oppose him. The impression in London is that Mr. Devlin will drop out at the last moment.

London, March 5.—Capt. Shaw Taylor, secretary of the Dublin landlords and tenants conference, who recently returned from a visit to Canada and the United States, has announced his candidacy for the House of Commons representing Galway City, made vacant by the conviction of Colonel Arthur Lynch.

Ottawa, Ont., March 5.—(Special.)—Mr. Devlin's resignation as immigration agent has been asked for on the ground that it would be inconsistent for him to hold the dual position of Canadian agent and member of the British House of Commons. He therefore promptly resigned by cable. He will be succeeded by his brother, E. B. Devlin, barrister of Hull.

CANADIAN NORTHERN.

D. D. Mann Speaks of Terminal Improvements at Winnipeg.

Winnipeg, March 4.—(Special)—D. D. Mann, vice-president of the Canadian Northern, says the Winnipeg depot and terminal improvements projected by his company on the property just purchased from the Hudson's Bay Company, will involve an expenditure of $1,500,000, and will not be completed for three years.