

mark, because the Plimsoll Act looks them in the face. The Government says by that Act, "You shall only put so much on board your steamship," and the company must obey. A Government has as much right to regulate rates as quantities. We have a weapon to use in this subsidy and we should get this thing straightened out, as it is an injustice as it now stands to the people of this county. The precaution should be taken in drawing up the subsidy contract, to stipulate that the company should carry apples from Nova Scotia at something like the rates they are carried from Boston or Portland to the Continent of Europe. If we cannot get that from the Government let us know the reason why. We have two members of the Government here now to hear what we say. We now have an opportunity of expressing what we know are our grievances. I know the Minister of Agriculture has been here before; he has faced the same question before in this county. He is here the second time to find out in some way a solution of what he was not able to answer satisfactorily after he had made a first visit to this county.

These gentlemen have been put in a position where they can do something for our advantage in this all-important matter by the votes of the people, and we would be far short of the duty we owe to ourselves if in the future we do not remember their action in reference to ocean rates on this agricultural staple of Western Nova Scotia.

Hon. Mr. Fisher, (Minister of Agriculture) on rising was greeted with loud applause. He said:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—Before proceeding to take up the very interesting discussion which has been before you, I wish to thank the Fruit Growers Association of the province of Nova Scotia, for the kind invitation they extend to me to be present at this, their annual Convention. It is true I had an opportunity once before of being present in Wolfville, but it was not such a gathering as this that I attended. I understand this is a representative gathering of the whole of the fruit growers of the Province of Nova Scotia, and I daresay, that while the Annapolis and Cornwallis Valleys are represented here, yet there are many others from the whole Province. It is a very fortunate thing for me as the Minister of Agriculture to come in contact