

3-4 GEORGE V., A. 1913

A. Yes.

Q. Do you not care to say what you paid your men?

A. I did not pay them wages. I gave 40 cents for the barrel after it was made up.

Q. What kind of wood went into the barrels?

A. It was hardwood.

Q. Elm?

A. Elm, I suppose, with flat hoops.

By Mr. Armstrong (Lambton):

Q. I understand you made the statement that you could, through your Co-operative Societies in Nova Scotia, take the apples off the trees and put them in the barrel for 25 cents a barrel.

A. There is the hauling charge besides that.

By Mr. Foster (Kings, N.S.):

Q. It would amount altogether to 30 cents?

A. Probably thirty cents would cover it. It depends upon how far the man is from the railway. I can get a load an hour into the warehouse from my orchard.

By Mr. Bowman:

Q. For how many years have your apple trees been planted?

A. Thirty years, and every year since.

Q. In the case of an old orchard that has not been properly taken care of, do you find any difficulty in bringing it into good bearing shape?

A. No, we find such orchards come right in.

Q. It is a very common thing to find the apple trees diseased where the orchards have not been very well taken care of.

A. It does not seem to affect the apples at all. The tree itself will probably break down and go to pieces.

Q. You said that in Nova Scotia you pick your apples for 10 cents. Would it not cost more to take the apple from trees such as I have referred to?

A. It would probably double the cost.

Q. That is the result with us in Western Ontario. Our average tree there is 45 years old, or nearly that, the cost of packing runs up very high.

A. There would be no fair comparison in a case like that, because our orchards in Nova Scotia consist mostly of young trees. With a good many of my orchards a man would have to get down on his knees to pick the fruit.

Mr. Schaffner:

Q. There are a good many orchards in Annapolis County are there not?

A. Yes.

By Mr. Armstrong (Lambton):

Q. What wages do you pay the men who are working in the orchards in Nova Scotia?

A. \$1.50.

A. And board them?

A. Yes. I should say that our way freight is only 17 cents to the steamship. We have an advantage in that way over the growers in Ontario.

By an Hon. Member:

Q. Seventeen cents a barrel?

A. Seventeen cents is the average freight rate. It runs from 10 to 18 cents.