

## APPENDIX No. 5

stuff in Seattle. All that a man has to do is to go around the streets, find out what the prices are, send a wire to Seattle, and he can get his stuff in quicker and at probably less price. The conditions are such that a man is almost afraid to place an order beforehand for British Columbia fruit because his competitor in business may bring in a bunch of stuff from the other side before he can get his delivered to him, and so depress the market by the time it arrives that the price at which he bought it will not allow him room to get out.

*By Hon. Mr. Burrell:*

Q. Has not the consignment of fruit this year increased tremendously over that of any previous year?

A. That is absolutely certain, there is no doubt about that. Of course it is mainly accounted for by the fact that there has been a very great crop in the north-western States. I have not seen the figures, our market commissioner's report is not yet published, at least I have not seen it, as to the number of consigned cars that have come into our market, but from time to time during the season we are getting all sorts of information, and I have heard it said that it was not unusual for from 30 to 40 consigned cars to be rolling in on any day; that is from 30 to 40 consigned cars were on the tracks on one day, and that certain points it was reported to the Association with which I am connected there were 78 cars on the tracks—I think it was Calgary, my memory is not very good on that point—but at that particular point there were 78 cars on the track on one day. Of that number five, I think it was, contained British Columbia fruit, and all the rest of the cars contained consigned fruit from the other side of the line.

*By Mr. Thoburn:*

Q. It is marked as American fruit, is it?

A. It bears the stamp of the packing house, it does not say exactly that it is American fruit, but it bears the stamp of the Association that packed it, as a general rule, of the shipping agent.

Q. When you speak about 'consigned fruit,' do you mean fruit sent from the United States into Canada without paying duty?

A. Oh no, sent in on commission.

Hon. Mr. BURRELL.—Not ordered by the Canadian dealer, but simply sent in to be sold on commission by the dealer?

*By Mr. Thoburn:*

Q. Sent in without paying the duty?

A. No, no, sent in without being ordered. There is a duty on American apples coming into this country of 13 cents a box, but the duty we would have to pay were we going to export our stuff into the American market would be 25 cents a box. I would ask the gentlemen of this Committee to mark that fact.

Q. Would it not be better to change that to ad valorem duty?

A. I would rather you would change the figures, give the American fruit a turn at 25 cents a box and let us have the 13 cent a box rate—but we have no surplus crop to send into their market. In the future, of course, we will have a great deal heavier crop than we have now. When we are producing to the full extent of our fruit area, as I have estimated it, we will be producing more than the markets in the Prairie provinces, even with the tremendous growth which they may expect, will be able to absorb, so far as we can see at present.

*By Mr. Schaffner:*

Q. How about the comparative cost of production in British Columbia and in the States you have referred to?