

Nova Scotia Growers Active

Manning K. Ellis, Sec'y., N. S. F. G. A.,
Port Williams, N. S.

A large and representative number of fruit growers met at Kentville on April 12th to hear the report of the delegates to the fruit conference at Ottawa, and to listen to addresses from prominent men on live fruit questions of the hour.

President S. C. Parker took the chair and called on John N. Chute, of Berwick, the "Father of Cooperation" in the Valley, to tell of the present status of cooperation work, and what development was looked for.

Mr. Chute took up his subject from a business standpoint, and briefly reviewed

the work and growth of the cooperative movement for the last five years. He showed that the question was not a local issue, but a world-wide movement, in which producers everywhere were finding a way to improve their condition, and place their products on the market in the best possible manner. In his own company at Berwick the average price for the seven leading varieties for the last five years had been as follows: No. 1, \$2.64; No. 2, \$1.88, and No. 3's something over \$1.00 per barrel. Twenty-five companies are now organized in the Valley.

A central association was organized and had started work the past season. Nearly \$300,000 worth of business was done this

first year, which speaks volumes for what can be done when the companies are all working together. The central association can handle the question of transportation, can attend to the buying of fertilizers and other supplies and in many other ways assist the local companies. In fact, the central association should be to the local companies what the local companies are to the individual. Mr. Chute's address was worthy of the careful attention it received.

Dr. Cutten, president of Acadia University, spoke on the benefits of a meteorological station to the fruit growers of the Valley. It was found by experiment that the temperature and rainfall of the preceding year had a great effect on the various crops of the year following, and by keeping a careful record for a term of years of the precipitation, high and low temperature, frosts, winds, etc., data of great value to farmers and fruit-growers could be secured. Some work had been done along this line at Wolfville, and the late government had sent some instruments which had not been installed, and the new directors from Toronto seemed to be under the impression that the station was not needed. Dr. Cutten read a letter from the State Climatologist of Ohio, giving an account of the work there; and the benefits derived. After some discussion of the location of such a station in the Valley the following resolution was carried:

Whereas valuable results have been obtained in other countries by ascertaining and recording, for future guidance, complete local meteorological records.

And whereas the closer connection of monthly temperature and rainfall with crop production is a matter for the fullest investigation (and whereas some work of this nature is now being carried on at Wolfville).

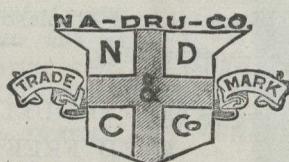
Therefore, resolved that this association respectfully requests and urges upon the Federal Government an expansion of this work and the equipment of a complete station from which daily weather forecasts may be furnished to farmers and fruit-growers by mail, telephone, telegraph, signals, or otherwise of such a nature as to warn them of injurious frosts or high winds during the growing season, or probable temperatures to be met with by fruit in transit during winter.

Captain Allen, the delegate from the United Fruit Companies to the Ottawa Conference, gave an account of the work in the conference upon the standard barrel question. "If," he said, "Canada cannot accept one size barrel, would it not be better to adopt two standards, the 96-qt. barrel as used in Nova Scotia and the 112-qt. barrel as used in Ontario?"

Geo. H. Vroom, the Dominion Fruit Inspector, read the law which calls for a minimum barrel as follows: 26 1/4 inches inside measure between heads. Diameter of head, 17 inches, diameter of bilge 18 1/2 inches, holding as nearly as possible 96 quarts.

Mr. Vroom then exhibited three sample barrels of standard, but varying in bilge as follows: No. 1, 18 1/2 inches; No. 2, 19 inches; No. 3, 19 1/2 inches. They held 97, 99 and 101 quarts respectively. No. 1 was the right size for the present minimum barrel, but in practice it was found not strong enough, because of the small bilge. He suggested a head diameter of 16 3/4 inches and a bilge of 18 1/2 inches as a better barrel.

The secretary read some correspondence from Mr. McNeill, Chief of the Fruit Division, quoting the law as to the minimum barrel, and saying that this coming season
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