

American competition is the only essential reason why we should not get the market. It is true that we can market our apples by accepting low prices. But this means ruin to our growers, and the destruction of our orchard industry would be a serious thing for our Province. The orchard industry is a fundamental one, and it is of the greatest consequence to our mercantile life that it succeed.

If the failure of the fruit industry would be bad for British Columbia, it would be equally bad for the Prairie Provinces. British Columbia buys annually from the Prairies about \$12,000,000 of grain, flour, meat, hay, and other agricultural products. This is a valuable asset for the Prairies, especially Alberta. Interprovincial trade—trade within Canada—we all desire to foster. Its advantages are great, and the question, in this aspect, is a national one.

In another way, the consumers of the Prairies and of British Columbia are vitally interested in the success of our industry. The wholesale fruit trade is highly organized, and dominated by a powerful, almost monopolistic, organization, known as the Nash houses or the American ring. The supply of imported fruit in our markets and its price rests with the wholesalers. The records of the Department of Agriculture shows that, as long as there is no British Columbia fruit of any certain kind on the market, these houses hold down the importations and hold up the prices. British Columbia fruit brings down these prices at once, and the quantity increases. Were there no British Columbia fruit, the jobbers would join together to control entirely the supply of imported fruit, and increase the rate of their profits. The consumer would be handicapped permanently in his efforts to get a liberal supply of fruit at a moderate price.

The demand is for increased protection. This increase must be to the point of sufficiency—adequacy.

The present duty is 40 cents per barrel and 13½ cents per box. These figures were originally fixed by the rough-and-ready method of considering the quantity of the contents of the package—roughly, a barrel contains three times as much fruit as a box—without taking into consideration the quality and greater relative cost of production (as to packing and package) of the boxed article.

That the increase in the duty be adequate is essential. Ontario is responsible for the suggestion that the figures should be \$1 per barrel and 33½ cents per box. If \$1 be taken as the proper figure for the barrel, it should be 40 to 50 cents on the box. Meantime, to avoid possible contention, British Columbia would concede that 35 cents per box would be adequate.

The demand for an increase in the rate of the duty to the point of adequacy is in no sense revolutionary. It does not attack the existing principle or policy, and does not involve the adoption of a new principle. No new economic departure is involved.

The Dominion trade is under protection. The cardinal principle of Canadian fiscal policy is protection. Apply it properly; make it adequate. This principle involves such readjustment of the tariff from time to time as may be necessary to meet the requirements of industrial development.

Years ago there existed in the Niagara District of Ontario, in the grape-growing industry, exactly the same conditions as exist to-day in the apple-growing industry of Canada. As the direct result of the dumping in the Canadian market by the American immediately across the line at that point of the surplus of his stock, prices to the Canadian had declined to the point that the return did not cover cost of production, apart altogether from beginning to meet interest on capital outlay. The industry was ruined and in many cases actual abandonment of the land by the people had followed. A repetition of this disastrous result is not unlikely in British Columbia. To meet the necessities of the situation the Liberal Government of the time imposed a protective duty of 2 cents per pound on imported grapes. The Canadian industry immediately responded. There followed successful production of high-class fruit, with a living wage to the producer; the recovery of land-values, and the increased settlement and development of the district. To-day there is in Canada no agricultural district more substantially and successfully founded than the grape-producing district of the Niagara Peninsula. And be it noted that to-day the Canadian con-