

Mr. Cunningham here drew attention to a vote of censure passed upon him at the last annual meeting, and considered it was very severe. He had, unfortunately, been detained on the Fraser River while attending to the business of the Board of Horticulture, and was not able to be present to take up the question of "Dairying as an adjunct of Fruit Growing." While detained in the fog, he had contracted a severe cold, ending in an attack of "la grippe" which confined him to bed for three months, and was at the point of dissolution a number of times. He had crawled out of bed to write the letter which is printed on page 76 of the Annual Report, but first mentioned, in its proper light by the Secretary on page 44 of the Report. That letter was never intended for publication, and to say the least of it, it was unkind to insert a private letter in the *News-Advertiser*, as was done, without my consent. An unfair interpretation had been taken from that letter by many, especially with regard to my position with respect to the importance of dairying. Dairying and fruit growing should go together, but I never said that too much attention was devoted to fruit. You all know my stand on this question. As to the reflection upon the climate of British Columbia, for which Mr. Hutcherson so sharply takes me to task, we all know that the country north of the 49th parallel, and for some distance to the southward, too, is subject to vicissitudes and sudden changes which may destroy crops. Some of my very critics expressed themselves even more strongly than I did at the same meeting—the seconder of the vote of censure himself lost a thousand pear trees from the effect of a sudden frost. I advised fruit growers to go into dairying so that if overtaken by severe frost, or damage, or destruction of their fruit prospects, they would not be thrown back without resource, as I say in my letter.

I described our climate, Mr. Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen. I used these words, which, perhaps, I ought not to have, and certainly would not have employed had I been writing for the press, as I sometimes do, and over my signature. But in writing a friendly letter to the Secretary it is a different matter, and think maybe the words "treacherous," and "uncertain," were too strong, but I certainly also think that vote of censure is not deserved, especially in view of the fact that Mr. Hutcherson himself writes (reads from another part of Report), "the successes have been sometimes overbalanced by failures," which, I think, is much more censurable than the remarks I made while on my sickbed, and I have good reason to complain of the severity of the censure passed upon me, or of any censure at all. I can appeal to you, Mr. Chairman, if I have not been faithful to the interests of the Province generally, and to the welfare of the British Columbia Horticultural Association. If I have committed a fault, it is rather of the head than of the heart. I have been an ardent fruit