

THE FRUIT MARKS ACT.

THIS important bill was passed by the House of Commons and was to come into operation on the 1st of July, 1901, but unfortunately for the fruit trade of Canada, and for every honest fruit grower in Ontario the thing has been almost nullified by the Senate. This body, evidently ignorant of the importance of clauses 6 and 7, actually took upon themselves to cut out what had been worked out by the wise heads of the Ontario Fruit Growers Association with the assistance even of those larger buyers and speculators, whose operations were likely to be most largely affected. Indeed it was not till after two years most careful thought, in committee and out of committee that the provisions of the bill were perfected in such a manner as to give liberty to all, and yet provide that the man who was willing to have his goods subject to inspection might adopt a certain brand which meant a certain grade. The following are the two sections which have been struck out by the Senate and which are the chief and most important ones in the bill:

6. No person shall sell, or offer, expose or have in his possession for sale any fruit packed in a closed package, upon which package is marked "A No. 1 Canadian" unless such fruit consists of well grown specimens of one variety, of sound, of nearly uniform size, of good color for the variety, of normal shape and not less than ninety per cent. free from scab, worm holes, bruises and other defects, and properly packed.

7. No person shall sell, or offer, expose or have in his possession for sale any fruit packed in a closed package, upon which package is marked the grade "No. 1 Canadian" unless such fruit consists of specimens of one variety, sound, of fairly uniform size and not less than eighty per cent. free from scab, worm holes, bruises and other defects, and properly packed.

Now by these sections a grower might contract with a buyer in England for a certain number of barrels of apples of grade No. 1 Canadian, a grade well defined,

making the packages subject to inspection, and the buyer could with confidence make such purchase without seeing the goods. This would develop a trade in apples along a new line, because any grower who could put up a few barrels of such defined grade would have a marketable commodity, which would command a certain price, and he would not be at the mercy of the apple buyer and speculator.

We do not think the venerable Senate of our Dominion has in this case shown that wisdom that should be betokened by their grey hairs. We close these remarks by adding a copy of the bill as finally amended and assented to by the Senate and House of Commons.

1. This Act may be cited as *The Fruit Marks Act*, 1901.

2. This Act shall come into operation on the first day of July, 1901.

3. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a.) The expression "closed package" means a box or barrel of which the contents cannot be seen or inspected when such package is closed;

(b.) The expression "fruit" shall not include wild fruit.

4. Every person who, by himself or through the agency of another person, packs fruit in a closed package, intended for sale, shall cause the package to be marked in a plain and indelible manner, before it is taken from the premises where it is packed,—

(a.) with the initials of the Christian names, and the full surname and address of the packer;

(b.) with the name of the variety or varieties; and

(c.) with a designation of the grade of the fruit.

5. No person shall sell, or offer, expose or have in his possession for sale any fruit packed in a closed package and intended for sale unless such package is marked as required by the next preceding section.

6. No person shall sell, or offer, expose or have in his possession for sale any fruit packed in a closed package, upon which package is marked any designation which represents such fruit as of finest, best or extra good quality, unless such fruit consist of well-grown specimens of one variety, sound, of nearly uniform size, of good colour for the variety, of normal shape and not less than ninety per cent. free from scab, worm holes, bruises and other defects, and properly packed.