

The Executive Committee's report was next presented and read by the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Hayward.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

*To the Members of the
Fruit Growers' Association of B. C.:*

Your Committee beg leave to hand in their report of the work done, the reasons that called forth that work, and a survey of the prospects of a continuance of such work.

Taking first of all the reasons for the Committee's existence. At the annual meeting, held in Victoria in the beginning of last year, an excellent address was delivered by Mr. E. Hutcherson on work done by him in the North-West during the preceding year. During this address he emphasised the necessity of doing our best, as an Association, to open the North-West market to the fruit growers of British Columbia, drawing the attention of the meeting particularly to two facts, that stood out prominently as factors which greatly retarded such wished-for success, as placed the efforts of the British Columbia fruit growers at a very great disadvantage when compared with those of the growers of Oregon and California. These two drawbacks were—

1st. Our inability to pack our fruit.

2nd. Our inability to load and handle fruit in carload lots, so as to reach their destination in prime condition.

A lengthy discussion took place, and in the end the meeting decided to appoint a Committee, which was to report to an adjourned meeting, to be held in New Westminster in February. The Committee reported, and the report was adopted with but little change. The report, as adopted, read as follows:—

1. That the Fruit Growers' Association should act only in an advisory manner in regard to the marketing of fruit in the North-West.

2. That the Association should send a competent man to the North-West, whose special business it should be to keep the fruit growers of the Province thoroughly posted as to the market conditions, prices and best methods of transportation during the shipping season. That this information should be sent by wire or mail, as necessity demands, for publication and dissemination throughout the Province.

3. That the Association should secure an expert in fruit packing and shipping, who would give information as to the packing, condition of fruit for shipment, and loading of cars, etc., at points to be determined upon.

4. That the Association should itself undertake the shipment or inspection of a carload of fruit to Winnipeg at the commencement of the season; an accurate account to be kept of the condition of the fruit when shipped; the temperature, icing and handling of the car in transit, and all other particulars of moment concerning it. That the fruit should be displayed in Winnipeg to the best advantage and well advertised, with a view of demonstrating the superior quality of British Columbia fruit.

5. That a Committee, consisting of three members, together with the Minister of Agriculture, be appointed to superintend the carrying out of these suggestions.

6. This Committee also proposes to take up the question of freight rates, express shipments and transportation generally, but requests that an expression of opinion be given as to the needs of the fruit growers in these respects.

7. This Committee would also suggest that the Fruit Growers' Association should request the Horticultural Board to aid in an active and material manner toward the carrying out the suggestions herein contained with regard to the recommendation of a man being sent to the North-West.

The Hon. the Minister of Agriculture, and Messrs. Kipp, Hayward and Harris were elected as the Committee to carry this work out.

Meetings of this Committee were held on March 14th, July 17th and July 18th, at which most of the members were present, the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture being chairman and Mr. W. H. Hayward secretary.

The Board of Horticulture was interviewed and at once took an active interest in the work in hand, and agreed to the request for "active and material" aid by nominating Mr. Tom Wilson, Fruit Inspector at Vancouver, and agreed to pay for his services while in the North-West.