

Mr. SCHELL (Woodstock): I shipped a good many Kings, and they did not bring us very much above the Spys, simply because the quantity of them was larger than in other years. In regard to the question of grading No. 1 and No. 2, I tried that and I do not think you could get a more difficult thing to handle than that. You send a gang of men into the orchard and tell them what you think are No. 1, and perhaps in that same orchard two trees are standing right side by side of the same kind and there is such a difference that some people would not believe they were the same kind, and yet they are perfect, there is nothing wrong with them. Now, how are you going to grade them? They are both perfect, and perhaps there is a little difference in the color or there may be a slight difference in the size. If you send out over a dozen gangs of men and tell them to grade them No. 1 and No. 2, there is hardly a gang that will grade those apples the same as another gang. What one gang will say are No. 1 apples the other gang will say are No. 2. If you ship No. 2 you will lose money every time.

The SECRETARY: According to your own statement you do not know what is meant by grades 1 and 2.

Mr. CASTON: Is there not a class of apples too good for culls and not fit to go into first-class barrels?

Mr. SCHELL: That is one of the difficulties of grading apples. That is the trouble of getting farmers to pack their apples. They give themselves the benefit of the doubt, and in they go. (Laughter.)

Mr. RICE: As to packing your own apples in your own orchard, I am not only a Michigan man, but I came from the great apple-growing region of Wayne county, New York, where we had to pack apples by the million barrels; and had we waited for the buyers to come into our orchard and pack our apples we would have been at least three or four years behind. (Laughter.) Now there are things that work themselves out if you just allow them to do so. In selling our apples the buyers knew that we were producers, and the buyers were always there in competition. There was not simply the one buyer, as Mr. Pettit said, to whom the farmer would sell at any price, but before one buyer got out of sight the other was in sight, and the first one that came was sure to come again, and so we had a chance to pick our buyers. We picked our own apples in every case, but when they were sent into the market the heads were taken off and if they found one barrel that was suspicious, very quickly the whole lot was considered as under suspicion, and very likely that man was required to put his barrels in one corner and go to work and re-sort them. He knew he would get caught the next time he came in with his load, so he brought in his apples in right shape, and in all our apples I never yet heard of an instance where a buyer had purchased apples and paid for them that he ever went back on the seller for damages. He examined the article when he came into the storehouse and there accepted it and paid for it, and the man went home. They knew the packers and the character of the packing from experience, and governed themselves accordingly as to watching them. In this way this matter often works itself out and does not require any paternalism by the Government. In regard to the pony barrel, our Legislature passed a law that one hundred quarts should represent a barrel, and that made the pony barrel, but most producers preferred to put in a peck more and have common barrels rather than have their apples go out in pony barrels. That gives us trouble all the time. The pony barrel is the snare to buyers in foreign markets everywhere, and we are sorry for it. That is working itself out, too. I do not think it needs any legislative action to prevent that. If you can grow the Northern Spy you have the world as your market. (Hear, hear.) At our last Horticultural Society meeting a great many noted men were present, and the question was asked, what will we advise our people to plant? Some said Northern Spy. President Morrill, of Benton Harbor, said: "Will you put that curse upon a young and inexperienced man who asks you innocently for advice what to do? Will you tell him to plant a thing that you know he will never take one dollar out of above his expenses?" (Hear, hear.) Professor Bailey said: "I would not recommend the planting of it, not because of the quality of the apple but because your expenses will count up far beyond what you will ever take out of it." That is the experience we have had in our country with it. Now, if you can make money out