

lamentably true that the good reputation which our apples have secured abroad has been largely neutralized by the distrust that has shown itself in our packers and handlers, and which we regret to say, is not altogether without cause. This defect must be righted and our efforts as an Association are invited in that direction and to that end.

We have a grand country to work in, and we know not yet the possibilities of our land as a fruit producing province. The experiences of every passing year adds to our faith in the magnitude of these possibilities. The markets of the great Northwest are opening up to us and demanding more and more of our fruit every year. The markets of the old world are ours if we but supply them honestly with the best we are capable of producing.

When Moses desired to learn of the character and capabilities of the land of Canaan he sent a deputation over to gather of its fruits. And when they returned, bearing with them samples of the fruit that they had found and gathered, Moses was satisfied, and longed to possess so goodly a land. We have in this Province of Ontario a heritage as rich as any land that Moses ever wished for, and we are well out of the wilderness that our forefathers struggled in before this association was born. And now that we possess in peace a land so good, of such vast possibilities, it is a duty that we owe to the Almighty who gave it, to our forefathers who brought it out of the wilderness, to ourselves who now enjoy it, and to our children who shall hereafter inherit it, that we possess it well and frugally, making it by our efforts to produce more abundantly of the fruits so natural to its soil and climate.

Figures and statistics are usually dry and uninteresting things, especially when brought into an address like this. But in turning to the Trade Returns I find encouragements to the labors of this Association, and valuable lessons also in the condition of things as shown there. Taking first the importations of dried fruits for home consumption, we find that in 1891 the value of such commodities brought in from other countries amounted to \$1,158,000. The following year it was down to \$1,000,000, and the year just past to \$900,000, decreasing at the rate of \$100,000 a year, which is largely, if not wholly due to the increased consumption of home grown fruits.

In the matter of dried apples alone, we imported in 1892 \$11,500 worth, and only \$1,500 worth in 1893, which goes to show that the evaporation of home grown fruit is enormously increasing, and that the home consumption is being supplied by the Canadian evaporator.

In the matter of green apples, we brought in for home consumption in 1892 \$81,000 worth, and only \$35,000 worth in 1893, and in the former year we sent out to other countries \$1,500,000 worth and in 1893 over \$2,500,000 worth. In 1891 we imported grapes to the value of \$79,000, and in 1893 the amount had been reduced to \$70,000, showing conclusively that we are supplying our own markets more and more with our own fruits in all the staple lines, and annually increasing our exportations to other markets in several lines. In the matter of canned goods the consumption of home grown fruits is steadily increasing, and the importation of canned fruit proportionately falling off. In 1891 we imported canned fruit to the value of \$73,000, and the amount had declined to \$61,000 in 1893, while the average exports for the past four years shows a steady increase.

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