

*Clause 3.*

Mr. Anderson—I would like to know who is to pay this expert.

Mr. Hayward—It is proposed to draw upon the Government grant as far as it will go.

Mr. Hutcherson—We would expect the Board of Horticulture to assist us in this.

Mr. Moggridge—I would suggest that the Committee approach the Exchange and learn whether they intend to ship in car-loads or not; if so, would they allow this man to follow their car. Then, if it was found that the Exchange was not shipping in a proper manner and continued to do so, we could then ship our own way. If this course were pursued, it would be a great saving in expense. I do not object to the Committee spending money, but it seems to me this is the course that should be adopted.

Mr. Kipp—I think we should recognise the work already done, and make our selection from both parties, so that all might profit by the mistakes already made; therefore, it would be foolish to employ entirely new material, as we would then have to go over the same ground and get information already in hand.

Mr. Brandrith—I think a great deal of this discussion is needless. I was one of the original organisers of this Association, and believe I know all about its incorporation, and am of the opinion that we cannot trade.

The President—It was this fact that caused the Exchange to come to light.

Mr. Hutcherson—It is impossible to inspect fruit at any central point; it would take two weeks to inspect a car-load. Fruit must be inspected where packed. We can tell pretty well by name whether the fruit should go or not.

Mr. Johnstone—Am I supposed to understand that fruit that comes in is not to be inspected to find out whether it is to go to the local market or to be exported? If so, I think it is altogether wrong, because some fruit that would be perfectly good for the local market would be utterly useless for shipping any distance.

Mr. Metcalf—We all seem to be proceeding upon the assumption that the Exchange is to be continued, of which I am very doubtful. It should not be difficult to determine the price for an expert for one car.

Mr. Hutcherson—I have not been asked my opinion as to how this packing is to be done, but I think the fruit should be sent in open boxes to the packing shed at the different points of shipment, and there carefully examined and properly packed. These points might be, say, Chilliwack, Ladner, Hammond, Mission, Victoria, New Westminster, and others.

Mr. Lewis—One of the great difficulties I think we have to contend with is the great distance the growers are apart, and the cost and damage to fruit in getting it to the centres.

*Clause 4.*

Mr. Sharpe—I think if the Committee were to advertise they would get plenty who would be willing to take their chances in sending their fruit in this experimental car, with the understanding that they would get what the fruit might bring.

Mr. Metcalf—Mr. Hutcherson has told us that about eighty per cent. of the fruit consumed in the North-West is supplied by the Americans; the question for us to consider is, how we may change this state of things. I am of the opinion that by advertising, personal canvassing, and the furnishing of full and complete information would accomplish this.

Mr. Sharpe—It is not a difficult matter to convince these people if we send the fruit through in good condition. Last season I sent fruit to a number of parties, with the request that they would report upon its condition, and in every instance the report was most favourable, and that next year they would place orders for my fruit.

Mr. Hutcherson—The course suggested by Mr. Metcalf is good; we should also have our man going from store to store and contract with parties to supply plums at a lower rate than the California plums. But if we do not enter into some definite bargain, there will be little use waiting, because they have been too often disappointed.

Mr. Hayward—I do not think this Association could take up the matter of making contracts with the country storekeepers, but the matter of advertising we could assume.

Mr. Hine—I think every member knows well enough how to pack his fruit if he will only do it.

Mr. Anderson—From what Mr. Gordon reported, he is of the opinion that British Columbia fruit is not packed as well as it should be.

Mr. Palmer—I have a report to present from Mr. Gordon on this very subject: