

so branded. Let us establish a system of definite standards of excellence and proper inspection. This, I believe, would throw around the grower and shipper a wall of defence, a safeguard to his good name as an intelligent grower, packer and shipper, and, at the same time, place the dealer in a position to order, direct from the grower, 100 or 1,000 barrels of No. 1 or No. 2, inspected stock, and of varieties as may be agreed upon. Let one of the standards necessary to insure the inspector's brand be, that the name of the fruit and its quality, as estimated by the packer, be plainly stamped upon the package containing it. This system, I believe, would inspire confidence in the mind of the buyer, and a spirit of renewed ambition in the grower, packer and shipper, and raise the standard of Canadian apples in the markets of the world. I would suggest, Mr. President, that an additional committee be appointed by this Association—a committee on legislation, to whom subjects requiring legislation might be referred, and the influence of this Association used to promote its enactment, if thought desirable. We stand here as the representative body of the fruit growers of this great fruit producing province of Ontario. Let us strive to clear away every obstacle, visionary or otherwise, that may hinder the development of this industry, and promote facilities for transportation and marketing to their fullest extent. Let us remember we are citizens of a great Dominion, fruit growers of a highly favored province, whose soil and climate render fruit growing a very remunerative branch of business, if intelligently pursued, and point out with unerring certainty that this industry will, in the near future, become one of great magnitude, requiring, on the part of this Association, the same energy to increase the facilities for the disposal of our fruit as that which has been displayed in promoting its production. Were we to slacken our efforts in that direction now, we would be like the captain who, when fairly under sail, forsook the ship and let her drift upon the rocks. Those rocks are visible now—bumps have already been felt—not rocks of granite, but rocks of an unsettled, undefined, go as you please, system of handling fruit, with no landmarks to guide the uninitiated. Let the inspector's brand be one worthy of Canadian fruit, a passport to any market, so that the producer may receive the best value for his production, and his skill in selection and packing.

I believe if we had in operation a system for the inspection and branding of all our fruits intended for shipment for foreign markets, it would raise the standard of our fruits in those markets to which we must look for our future profits. At present, a man who buys a car load of grain, does not require to see it in order to know its quality. He simply orders a car load of number one, or number two, inspected wheat, as the case may be. Why should not the buyer of fruits be enabled to do the same thing? A great deal of the fruit sent from Canada to European markets does not reach them in as good condition as the buyers expected. Much of the fault of this I believe should be laid to the packer, but the grower usually gets the discredit. I have not worked out the details of this proposal, but at present I can think of no better means of carrying it out than to have inspectors of fruit appointed by the Government to brand all fruits sent abroad.

Mr. G. C. CASTON (Craighurst).—This is an excellent idea, and one which has often occurred to myself. But I see a practical difficulty in the way: that is, how is the inspection to be done? If the inspector opened a barrel of apples to examine it, and then headed it up again, there would be danger of injuring the fruit, whereas an inspector of flour needs only to make a small hole in the barrel to ascertain the quality of the flour. In the case of fruit, the packer might be allowed to brand it, and a penalty might be imposed if the fruit did not turn out as represented. I would like to ask Mr. Pettit if he has thought of any means of getting over the practical difficulty of inspecting apples.

Mr. A. H. PETTIT.—I think an inspector at the port of shipment could easily make the inspection. For instance, if there was a car load of apples, he could select three or four barrels, and have a large sheet into which they could be emptied for inspection, and then they could be at once returned to the barrels and headed up again. It would be only a few minutes work. I believe there are many growers who do not thoroughly understand the system of packing for the old country markets, and a system of inspection would lead them to pay more attention to that particular, because any fruit that was not