

FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

and I know these men get together splendid exhibits that are a credit to our country, and I do think it would be well to have a class just for that kind of thing.

Mr. A. M. SMITH: You will often see men going through the country begging or borrowing or buying fruit—and they have the excuse, that they are gathering for certain societies—that there is a class, as there is in Toronto, open to the general public or any association or society. They go through the country and gather up this selection of fruit, and a very close observer will often find some of that fruit on a plate of private individuals, shown as their own producing. I know what I am taking about, because I have seen some of my own fruit shown in that way, that I had taken pains to fix so that I could identify it.

Mr. CASTON (Craighurst): Mr. Smith's paper was aimed at what may be called the professional exhibitor, and we have a number of them. At the Industrial this fall one of the experimenters told me that a party there wanted to purchase the best selection of the fruit and offered him a pretty good figure for it, and he asked me what I thought about it, and I said "The best thing is to sit on him and sit on him heavy too." He was one of these professionals. They follow up the fairs as long as they last during the fall. It is a money business with them. If, as Mr. McNeill suggested, we do away with the money prizes and have people exhibit for the honor of the thing in the shape of medals or diplomas, there would not be that inducement to these professionals, as there would be no money in it for them. On the other hand, as Mr. Orr suggests, we would not have as many exhibitors if the money prizes were withdrawn. It is rather a troublesome question to deal with, and I hardly know how we are going to get at that class to stamp them out.

Mr. ROBT. THOMPSON (St. Catharines): I don't think we can stamp them out. As far as making a declaration is concerned, the rules of all societies at present are that any person, any other exhibitor, can make a protest against one of these professional men. How often is it done? When it is done, in 99 cases out of a 100 these professionals will take that declaration and swear that the article is their own growth and produced on their own place. If this declaration were made compulsory when they are making the entry, Mr. Burrell would have some good fruit and of course he would exhibit as his own. The professional will do the same thing. They have done it in the past and will do it in the future. I am sorry we cannot confine it to the growers, but with my experience of fairs I know that it is impossible to do it, and, as Mr. Orr says, it would work detrimental to our fruit exhibit. I believe that all the large exhibits should be thrown open and that clause done away with, because I am satisfied it will never be observed.

Mr. BURRELL: I am inclined to think those ideas are right as far as the Provincial show goes. I believe we can shut out all those men in the different localities, because they are known and it is known what they grow, but at Toronto you will never shut down on them altogether, and I would say either push it so as to make it very stringent or else let it go. I would ask Mr. Smith his views on ringing grapes. Everyone in Toronto who is a judge of grapes must know that the majority of the prizes in Toronto go to the grapes that are ringed. We all know the process. Is that to be upheld? Lots of the prizes this year were to be given for grapes that any man knows had been ringed. That is certainly a very unfair thing to the man that shows the grape in its natural state.

THE PRESIDENT: If the meeting feel that that should be looked after it would be a very easy matter to stop it by giving the judges power and authority to throw out all ringed grapes, which would soon bring that to an end. It is simply a question now whether you think they should be thrown out.

Mr. BURRELL: Many men do not ring their grapes because they do not think it is a fair way of competing, and at the same time they know they will not get the prize unless they do ring them. Everybody should understand that they will be allowed to ring them. One judge told a competitor who was complaining that he did not get a prize, "You ought to ring them."

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