

are piled one upon the other in such a way that frequently when it comes off the car it is in better condition for pigs than for placing upon the market. There is another grievance in connection with the express companies which I think it the duty of this Association to look into and try to have remedied. I refer to the petty pilfering of fruit from baskets and packages while in transit. I presume there is not a shipper who does not receive complaints every year from his customers of weight or measure being short, or baskets being broken open and fruit abstracted. The loss is generally so small that if he is very busy he does not take the trouble to report it, and if he does he seldom gets any satisfaction. The large shippers do not often notice it, but it comes especially severe on the small dealers in country towns and private individuals who are getting a few baskets for their own consumption. As a case in point, I was stopping a few weeks in the little town of Brussels last fall during the grape season, and a *widow woman* living there who made her living by selling fruit and confectionery wanted me to order her up some grapes for retailing, 100 pounds or so at a time. I did so and when the first lot came up she reported them five or six pounds short. Thinking there might possibly be a mistake on the part of my shippers I deducted it from her bill and let it pass. On the arrival of the next shipment I happened to be in her store when they were delivered and noticed that some of the baskets had been broken open. I took one and weighed it and found that there had been stolen over three pounds by actual weight. I showed it to the agent and he reported it to the superintendent of the company, and that is the last I have heard about it. There was from 20 to 30 cents' worth on each shipment taken from this poor woman's hard earnings which would in two or three weeks amount to several dollars and she had no means of redress. If there had been that amount taken from a money or from any other package of value there would have been an investigation and restitution, and the guilty parties punished. Why should not property in fruit be respected as well as in any other commodity? I trust there will be a committee appointed to look into and remedy this evil.

While we congratulate ourselves upon the achievements of the past we must not forget the duties of the present. There are many evils to remedy, wrongs to be righted, errors to be corrected, in the horticultural line as well as in others, and while we have made advancement in the past we must not forget that we are far from what we ought to be considering our advantages. There is not a country in the civilised world that has a better soil and climate for growing apples, pears, plums, cherries and many varieties of grapes in perfection than we have, to say nothing of small fruits, yet there is not one farmer in ten, take Ontario through, that grows half of these fruits required for his own use even. I have travelled through some of the best fruit sections of the province during the past year, been upon the farms of some of our most prosperous farmers and enjoyed the hospitality of their homes, and I was surprised at their want of horticultural taste and knowledge. Even where every other surrounding was all that could be desired, as good buildings and fences, good horses and cattle, good roots and grain, well tilled fields, yet when you looked for the orchard, the fruit or the flower garden or the lawn, they were either wanting or in a very neglected condition; and while their tables were well supplied with the substantial and luxuries of other kinds, there was a noticeable absence

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