

As a member of our government we make you welcome to-day. As head of the greatest and most important factor of our national life and labor, we repeat the welcome. As having been yourself a practical farmer, and having acquired a great experience along this line, we make you thrice welcome, honored in your position, and honoring your position. We are also glad to see with you this afternoon our own honored and worthy representative to whom we also hope to have the pleasure of listening.

We value this occasion and privilege, and cannot but express the hope and wish that this may not be the last visit you will favor us with.

Honored sir, we thank you, and beg of you to accept our respectful and best wishes.

Mr. Fisher acknowledged the address and the meeting entered upon the discussion of

Freight Rates and Cold Storage.

Mr. Frank Andrews, of Middleton, spoke as follows:

Mr. President,

Your Secretary, who has a faculty of roping people in and making them do what he wants, told me I must prepare a ten minutes' paper for this Association on the question of "Freight Rates and Cold Storage," and I yielded to his mesmeric influence in a "moment of weakness."

If this meeting were composed exclusively of fruit growers I should say little or nothing upon the subject of freight rates, but would at once proceed to take advantage of the latitude which such an occasion permits—where there are no rules of order and fine spun theories of parliamentary procedure to vex one's soul, and at once pass on to subjects a little more fresh. For this subject has been worn threadbare and shiny at the seams. Every man, woman and child in the Annapolis Valley, from the muddy waters of the Avon at the one end to the jumping off place at Digby Gut at the other, knows all about the extortionate rates our fruit growers have paid, from the time the first barrel of apples was shipped to England down to the present hour. As we were accustomed to repeat in our schoolboy declamations: "You all do know the story of our thralldom. We are slaves" &c., &c., &c. Why then should we take up the time of this association to-