

APPENDIX No. 5

the variety is. It is a big brand that occupies the full area of the end of the box. We put on our boxes the name of the Association or Packer and the variety with the figure '1' or '2', according to the grade. The American grade marks appeal to the buying public.

Q. Do you mean that you are discriminated against in the matter of marking?

A. We are, and we suffer because we have to mark our boxes in accordance with the Act. The American box when it comes in may be inspected and as a general rule it is now marked 'No. 2', but that mark is put on the other end of the box, the blank end of the box, a small 'No. 2' is stamped on it with a rubber stamp, but the original branding, the original marking in large characters, remains on the other end of the box as it was before inspection, there is no erasure of those marks, so that when the stuff comes to the retailer or to the consumer it appears, on the face of it, to be 'Extra Fancy,' 'Fancy' or 'Choice.' No one thinks of looking for the small 'No. 2' on the back of the box, whereas our own stuff bears on the face of it no other mark than the brand 'No. 1' or 'No. 2', consequently we suffer from that discrimination.

By Mr. Douglas:

Q. You are prevented from putting any other brand on your boxes?

A. Certainly, we have to mark the figure 'No. 1' or 'No. 2', we cannot put on the front of our boxes 'Choice' or 'Fancy'. In point of fact, sir, were the British Columbia shipper to follow the same lines that the American shipper does in putting the stuff on the Northwest markets, he would be put out of business within one year under a deluge of prosecutions.

Q. By the officers of the department?

A. Certainly.

Hon. Mr. BURRELL.—The Act has been amended, but there is a good deal of truth in what Mr. Foggo says. What he stated in the first place is absolutely right. When the law was first passed it was not so much perhaps for the protection of men like Mr. Foggo personally, but with the idea of seeing that Canadian fruit going into foreign markets should be up to certain grades. Apparently that was the only object in the minds of the government of that day, because American competition then in our own country was not very fierce. What we have done this year has been to strengthen our home inspection system so that Number Two grade of fruit should not masquerade as Number One. I think Mr. Foggo will admit that we have also tried to strengthen the whole fruit inspection system as against unfair competition from without, and we have tried to ensure that the grades of foreign fruit entering Canada should be at all events somewhere near those prescribed by the law. Now perhaps we ought to move somewhat further. This year an extraordinary condition of affairs occurred. A wholesale man from Winnipeg, and another man from a Western point, were visiting me the other day, and both pointed out the condition to which Mr. Foggo has drawn attention. They are both handling as much Canadian fruit as they can, and one of the two cited an instance where an American firm came to him to handle 37 cars. He did not want to take the fruit but the American firm said to him: 'You had better handle it because it will get into your market any way.' At Saskatoon, Moosejaw and other points in the Canadian West there were from ten to fifteen and even more cars of American fruit put in a single day to take their chances on the open market because the market on the other side was more or less quiet. That produced an extraordinary condition of affairs.

Mr. Foggo.—Gentlemen, I was just coming to the point about which Mr. Burrell has spoken. In the Northwest the bulk of the fruit is handled by jobbers. Under the present conditions that is almost a necessity. Those jobbers are very strongly organized and occupy a very strong position. The day may come when the Canadian grower efficiently organized and moving only on co-operative lines, may dispense with, or endeavour to dispense with, the middleman or jobber, but at present, so far as I