

## The Disappointed Fruit Growers.

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There has recently been held in Victoria a convention of fruit growers, packers, dealers, etc., who have met with representatives of the Government and the great transportation companies to consider the condition of the "Fruit Industry," and the possibility of taking action to improve the situation.

We are growing splendid fruit, probably as a province the best in the world, but the growers have often found it unprofitable to handle their crop and many men are already greatly discouraged.

From the debates in the conference, it was apparent that the transportation companies are not the cause of the trouble: their charges may and probably should be reduced, and they might provide more facilities, but on the whole they do their work well and economically. They are monopolies, but whilst they make large profits, they also have to do all they can to encourage the producer, for without him their plant would be of no more use than scrap iron.

The railway and express charges by no means bridge over the vast gulf betwixt the prices that the producer receives for his fruit and the price that the consumer will willingly pay. Tons of fruit went