

Mr. Hutcherson—Although the McPherson Fruit Co. promised, if it was found necessary, to put six men on the road, when the price got down to 50c. or 60c. a crate they could not afford this. It might be arranged, in the shipping of four cars to different points, for this man to meet the car, by shipping upon certain days: say, by shipping one day to Calgary, a day or two after to Regina, then to Brandon, and then to Winnipeg; so that man could be on hand at the opening of each car, and in this way anyone shipping poor fruit would get his deserts. If the growers will only hold together we can manage it; otherwise the thing must fail.

Mr. Palmer—Would it be possible to arrange for shipping cars three days apart?

Mr. Hutcherson—Not without the aid of refrigeration; with it we could manage to place them even a week apart. I have in my possession a letter from the Northern Pacific R.R. Co., which states that they have been able to handle the fruit successfully by this means, and even hold it for several weeks. For instance: suppose you ship a car to Calgary, and find that there is only sale for half, under the cold storage system you would then be able to leave it and go on to another point. After my experience of this season the matter is simple enough. I may say, for the benefit of those who have not been here before, that the difference between freight and express rates is in itself a fair profit. When we come to Winnipeg we have to meet with Washington growers, and this last season dealers could buy their fruit at 20c. a crate. I have been on my feet a great deal this afternoon, and I do not want to take too much of your time, but I would like to see a committee appointed to take the matter up in a business-like way.

Mr. Hadwen—The Committee considered that it could only act in an advisory manner, as the Government objects to making appropriations to be devoted to private enterprises. As Mr. Hutcherson has stated, no carload of our fruit has ever gone into Winnipeg in good condition, whereas it has been possible to get the fruit there by express. If we had a man there who could examine every lot, he could also advise the grower how his fruit is carrying through, and, as he would be an independent party, his word would carry considerable weight, and if the grower should continue to send poor fruit he might do so at his own cost. When the early plums, say peach plums, come in we could purchase them from suitable localities and have a carload sent east, and a man with the same, to examine the icing and see whether the fruit was handled roughly or not, and report the condition of the different growers' fruit. Of course we can only do so much with the funds on hand. Mr. Hutcherson has stated that if a carload of fruit arrives in bad condition it is simply thrown out, whereas if we had this man on the spot he could make the best of it.

Mr. Hutcherson—Do you think there would be anything in assisting the Fruit Exchange?

Mr. Hadwen—No; but I think it would be unwise, as it would cause feeling.

Mr. Moggridge—I think you would find considerable difficulty in selecting locality and whose fruit should be shipped.

Mr. Wilson—I think that point will come up in a later clause.

Mr. Hadwen—I had an idea that the Board of Horticulture would give us assistance.

Mr. Hutcherson—It is the Fruit Exchange that has been doing this work, and where else are you going to get your information? It seems strange that this work should be taken out of the hands of the Exchange, which must be in the best position to do the work.

A letter was here read, from the Cleeve Canning and Cold Storage Co., showing their facilities for handling fruit.

Mr. Hayward—The Committee does not propose to do anything; they simply make their report, and it is a matter for this meeting to decide whether it be adopted or not.

Mr. Metcalf—I am not a member of the Fruit Growers' Association, but have been sent down as a delegate from our locality, and I would suggest that all present be given the privileges of members.

It was then moved by R. M. Palmer, seconded by E. Hutcherson:

That all present have the same privileges as members for this meeting.—Carried.

Mr. Hadwen—Mr. Hutcherson has suggested that this Committee should be reduced to three. I would like to hear the matter discussed.

Mr. Kipp—I live at Chilliwack, and would like to say a word here. It does seem strange that whenever appointments are made on these committees, parties are always selected who never attend. I would like to see somebody appointed who would take an interest in the work.

Mr. Hutcherson—With all due respect to the Farmers' Institute, I think men should be appointed who will endeavour to be present.

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