

## APPENDIX No. 5

Three's were shipped from my neighbourhood this year to Saskatoon. I mentioned this before but I repeat it again as I think it is an important point, and when these No. Three's reached their destination they were not worth the freight it cost to carry them. But that is not the worst feature of it. The worst feature is that it ruins our reputation for all classes of fruit.

Mr. BOWMAN.—I differ from Mr. Thornton. If you ship No. Three's to the West and they are sealed and marked as No. Three's, I don't see how any person can be misled. If they are sold in open package I can see that it would discredit Canadian fruit.

Mr. BURRELL.—While it is sealed in closed package as far as the wholesaler is concerned, when it finally gets to the retailer it is not. He buys it as an Ontario apple.

Mr. BOWMAN.—Don't you think the Act should be amended?

Mr. BURRELL.—That's a pretty hard question. I have looked at this pretty thoroughly. You are bound to have a certain number of culls, but I think it would be a good plan to keep the No. Three's at home. I believe that we should grow no No. Three's at all, if possible, and try to live up to the No. 1 standard.

Mr. THORNTON.—That is the point I would like this Committee to emphasize. It is not in our interest as farmers, as apple growers, to pack anything but the best. If we could educate the growers up to that point where they would ship nothing but the very best, then we should establish a reputation for our fruit which would be an immense money-maker for us for years to come. But we are doing the very opposite to-day and it is ruining our apple trade.

Mr. FOSTER (Kings, N.S.).—I am very glad that Mr. Chute is here and that Mr. Thornton has expressed his ideas for improving the fruit industry. I entirely agree with him, but you must remember that in Nova Scotia we have not got the apple industry down to a science. Co-operation is only in its infancy. We only started two years ago. The very first year we undertook co-operation we encountered a season where the growth of fungus was such that our apples were mostly No. Three's, and so on with our hard fruit. The big number of Three's that we had that year was not entirely due to fungus alone, but combined with that was the fact that the farmers had had a very prosperous season the year before and had neglected to spray in that particular season. These two things together produced a crop of No. Three's.

The first year the co-operative society was in existence I warned those farmers that to go on raising these No. Three's would be suicidal from a business standpoint. Eventually the farmers will come to see that themselves. I claim that one of the strongest factors which will assist the farmer in coming to the conclusion is that the Agricultural Department this year has decided to establish demonstration orchard work in that very self-same country, which will be of immense advantage and interest to the farmers themselves both financially and otherwise, and indirectly will affect you people in Ontario and other sections of Canada; because it will give you a better class of article to produce in competition with our own. I do not think that blame should be placed on the co-operative companies or on those farmers this year.

Mr. THORNTON.—I agree with Mr. Foster entirely. My remarks were not intended to reflect on the co-operative companies. I think we have learned something of importance to apple growers here and in all Canada, because of the results they have achieved in Nova Scotia. I think the co-operative system is perfectly proper and I am glad it has achieved such good results. But I only wished to emphasize that the work of this Committee, as coming from the best authority in Canada, should be educative along these lines, and the growers and farmers should be educated to put nothing on the market but the best. The net result in the end will be more money to the farmer.