

At the present time the Commission has no power to issue an order dealing with the rough handling or pilfering of fruit. Neither can they issue an order with respect to the vexatious delays or the rough coupling. These are two very important things.

*By Mr. Lalor:*

Q. Do you find that much loss is experienced in the stealing of barrels of fruit in transit to the West?

A. Not very much loss. We may lose a barrel now and then but it is not very serious.

*By Mr. Schaffner:*

Q. You could hardly expect, I think, that a cargo of apples could be carried at the same rate as a cargo of wheat or flour.

A. No, I do not think that we could. I merely brought that out by way of illustration.

*By Mr. Douglas:*

Q. With regard to pilfering, do the Railway Companies always make good your losses?

A. My experience with claims made upon Railway Companies is that it is cheaper, as a rule, to let the thing drop, rather than bother with them. They will run it on year after year and try to wear one out.

Q. That has not been my experience with them. Whenever we make a claim on account of pilfering it has been invariably settled by the Railway Company within two or three weeks.

A. Then you are very fortunate. We have had very many claims, but the Railway Companies have simply worn us out by a policy of delay.

Q. Who presents the claim?

A. The shipper, as a rule.

Q. Why should he?

A. He should not. But we ship apples to ourselves. We have our own salesmen out West. I do not make these claims in the case of f.o.b. sales. The fruit growers would like to see the jurisdiction of the Board of Railway Commissioners extended so as to enable them to settle claims that have stood out for three months. We think that is quite long enough, and that the Railway Companies can find out what they are going to do in that time instead of letting it drag on year after year until we have forgotten all about it.

*By Mr. Armstrong (Lambton):*

Q. What other suggestions have you?

A. I have here some notes as to why the apples are wasted in the orchards. Now, my opinion is, first, lack of co-operative organization; second, Railway and wholesale firms discriminating in favour of American fruit; third, no marketing system; fourth, high rates and poor transportation service; fifth, the Western markets do not care for our barrel, and they want boxes. We have certainly got to come to the boxes. I would like to see a vigorous campaign instituted in favour of packing in boxes.

*By Mr. Schaffner:*

Q. I would like to understand this: you say the Americans have the advantage in freight rates?

A. Yes.

Q. Do not the British Columbia growers, on their fruit from Medicine Hat to Winnipeg, have the same rate that the American shippers have?

A. I am not sure about that but I would suppose they have.

Q. I understand that the British Columbia growers have the same rate from Medicine Hat to Winnipeg as the American shippers have to pay.