

upon isolated farmers to load their boats; consequently the farmer who ships any apples through the agents must pay a maximum rate. Whether shipping by the farmers or through the agents, these steamships would still have their minimum freight rate to offer to the largest shipper. I contend it is the duty of the farmer of this valley to get down to business and co-operate. It has been often asked if orchard planting can be safely extended. To this I would say, "Yes." Twenty times the amount now grown in this valley can be marketed if there were concentration and co-operation, because there would be better packing, there would be better shipping, there would be better preservation of the fruit in transit, better quality of the fruit, and our markets would be extended. I am not complaining that the government has not done more for the farmer; nor am I complaining of agents or steamship companies, which charge high rates, or large shippers, or speculators who make large shipments. Had it not been for the speculator here this year, those who gave a liberal price for our product, many of us would have had to live, figuratively speaking, on oatmeal or bran cakes. I am not complaining of this. If I am not complaining, I am lamenting that the farmers have been waiting for something to turn up. Now, sir, if by the granting of subsidies, the apple shippers will get a lower rate of freight, it will, no doubt, be beneficial to the farmers, but if these boats subsidized will not lower the freight rate, it is doing the farmer a positive injustice.

It is reasonable to ask the government to see to it that a less amount of freight is charged by subsidized boats.

It has been my humble opinion for a long time that the apples shipped from the port of Halifax to the ports of Great Britain do not need cold storage. I think that our soft apple, which is the Gravenstein, can be shipped in its season as well as any other variety in its proper season. My experience in cold storage this last season has been very limited. I may say that as late as November, I shipped two barrels of Gravensteins here through the agent of Nothard & Lowe, and wrapped the fruit in paper. One barrel was put in cold storage, and the other was not. They were sent by the Furness Line. When the returns came in the results were the same. Both sold for 16 shillings a barrel. No comments