

APPENDIX No. 5

By Mr. Foster (Kings, N.S.):

Q. Mr. Johnson stated in his evidence as follows: "All I know is that the apples are shipped in good condition and arrive either slack or something of that kind, and don't sell for anything like they should. I believe dealers this year are losing money in large quantities by shipping apples to the Old Country." Do you have any difficulties of that sort?

A. Yes, that is one of the troubles of the fruit growers. Some cargoes, of course, may be slack; generally speaking, we have nothing to complain of. It may be that sometimes the packages are not properly secured.

Q. Previous to your sending your own representative to England, did you have any evidence that there was collusion between the dealer and the speculator? By the dealer, I mean such men as speculators in our own country.

A. I do not think there was any collusion between them.

Q. You do not think there was any effort to set the price, an understanding in any way between them as to the price to be paid to the farmer?

A. No, I do not think so.

By Hon. Mr. Burrell:

Q. On the whole, you feel very optimistic about the future of the apple business?

A. Yes, I do. Our efforts now must be to secure thorough packing, to look after transportation, and organization.

By the Chairman:

Q. If you wish to cultivate the Western market, don't you think it would be wise for your association to have a warehouse at Winnipeg, and so handle your apples at both ends, deliver right to the retailer?

A. Yes, it would be a great advantage, and it could be worked out all right under our system.

Q. What is to prevent it?

A. Nothing in the world; we have only to make up our minds to do it.

By Mr. Douglas:

Q. Are you in as favourable a position to ship apples to the West as the Ontario farmers?

A. We cannot compete with Ontario in winter apples. They have a better freight rate and a larger barrel, too. In Gravensteins, Ontario is not there; we have practically the season to ourselves.

Q. What time are Gravensteins ready for picking?

A. By September 5; they are all off the trees by the 20th, or 25th at the latest.

Mr. Wilson (Wentworth):

Q. What does your barrel contain?

A. One hundred and thirty pounds of fruit.

By the Chairman:

Q. That is smaller than the Ontario barrel?

A. Yes.

Mr. DOUGLAS.—I think you still have to pay on the same shipping weight of 165 pounds per barrel. I think there is a regulation on the railways that all apples are billed at 165 pounds to the barrel.

By Hon. Mr. Burrell:

Q. Have you very much Coddling Moth?

A. No, very little.