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or four acres of orchard, but is of no particular importance so far as a co-operative association is concerned. They can put in one or more of these power sprayers, and the one power spraying outfit will spray for a whole association. In the case of the Chatham Association they have two of these expensive power outfits and in the case of the Forest Association they have two outfits. They do their spraying not only more cheaply but much more effectively, because it is done by men who become experts by performing this work every day. Thus their quality of fruit is much better than it formerly was. As chief of the fruit division, having the enforcement of the Fruit Marks Act in charge, I would like just here to bear my testimony to this fact: There can be no more effective way of enforcing the Fruit Marks Act than by organizing apple growing districts into co-operative associations. We could practically do with half the staff of inspectors if we had co-operative associations. We would still need a few, because even in co-operative associations there are always men who had better be looked after a little. But I can say confidently—getting dozens of reports from the whole of Canada every day—I can say confidently that the co-operative associations are a most efficient help in enforcing the Fruit Marks Act. They have every incentive to obey the law and to see that the law is observed. The present business methods of the apple operators are such that even if an operator were honest he cannot answer for his subordinates who are sometimes spread over the whole country, hundreds of miles apart. One operator employed seventy gangs in 1905. He knew the foremen of a few of the gangs, but he could not be personally acquainted with their work, because they were separated by hundreds of miles. Notwithstanding this, he had to put his name on thousands of barrels, and he responsible for them. You can thus see that no matter how honest a man might be, his name would appear as a delinquent under the Fruit Marks Act because of carelessness if not actual dishonesty on the part of some employee.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. What you say is that co-operation stimulates people to act honestly and to do the right thing?—A. It stimulates them and gives them a chance to act honestly and efficiently, so it is valuable in all these respects.

*By Mr. Sinclair:*

Q. About what number of these fruit associations are there now in Canada?

The CHAIRMAN.—I think the list was filed the other day.

Mr. RUDDICK.—You will notice there twenty-five associations in active operation in Ontario, but there probably are twenty more in British Columbia and Nova Scotia. There are more in British Columbia than in Nova Scotia.

Q. The Fruit Growers' Association in Nova Scotia is a provincial institution, is it not?—A. Yes, there is a provincial association, but it is not a co-operative association; it is purely educational in its objects. I might say that the co-operative movement among the apple growers of Nova Scotia is just in its infancy, and has not yet had time to develop sufficiently to look for results as we can in Ontario and British Columbia.

The witness retired and the Committee adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

ROOM No 32,

OTTAWA, Thursday, March 7th, 1907.

The Special Committee to whom was referred Bill No. 2, respecting Industrial and Co-operative Societies, met at 10.30 a.m., the Chairman, Hon. R. Lemieux, presiding.