

# THE FRUIT INDUSTRY

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

COMMITTEE ROOM No. 105,

THURSDAY, January 30, 1913.

The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization met here this day at 11 o'clock, the Chairman, Mr. Sexsmith, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN.—We have with us this morning Mr. J. A. Ruddick, Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner. He has come prepared to answer questions in regard to the fruit industry, and I have no doubt will be able to afford you considerable information.

Mr. RUDDICK.—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: It would be impossible, I suppose, for one to come here and answer all the questions that might be asked, but I have prepared myself for such questions as I thought were likely to be asked with respect to the fruit growing industry so far as it relates to the Branch of the Department with which I am connected. In the Department of Agriculture there are two Branches that deal with this industry. There is the Division of the Dominion Horticulturist, Mr. W. T. Macoun, at the Experimental Farm. The Dominion Horticulturist deals with the actual production of fruit, especially in connection with the Experimental Farm system, but he also acts in an advisory capacity to the fruit growers at large. In the Branch of which I have the honour to be chief officer, we deal more particularly with the commercial side of the industry, and our work includes the administration of the Fruit Marks Act, matters of transportation, marketing, etc. We also publish a monthly fruit crop report from May to September of each year. I thought it well to make this clear before we proceed.

Now, Mr. Chairman, is it your desire that I should proceed to follow my notes, or do you simply wish me to answer the questions put to me?

The CHAIRMAN.—Perhaps it would be just as well for you to proceed, and the members of the Committee can put any questions that occur to them.

Mr. RUDDICK.—The season of 1912-13, which is now drawing to a close, has been a little unusual in certain respects and fruit growers in some parts of the country have found themselves up against new difficulties. While in some districts the apple crop was larger than in the previous year, in other sections the crop was smaller. In Nova Scotia, as you all know, the crop of 1911 was a record one, being nearly double that of any previous year, and there was shipped out of that Province something like 1,700,000 barrels. For 1912 the crop will be very much smaller. What the figures will be we do not yet know, because there is still a large quantity of apples to be shipped, but I should say the shipments will not be much over half as large as they were in 1911. The quality of the apples over the greater part of the country was not up to the standard of previous years. The season was a peculiar one; there was a great deal of damp weather and a lot of rain, which interfered to some extent with spraying operations and was very favourable to the growth of fungus diseases. Then the cold weather and the lack of sunshine influenced the character of the crop to some extent by producing much smaller fruit in certain varieties, especially the