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Problems of the Fruit Grower.

During a sitting of the Select Standing Committee of the House of Commons on Agriculture and Colonization a few months ago, it came out in evidence that many apple-growers were last year unable to secure more than from 75c. to \$1 per barrel on the tree, and in some districts hundreds of barrels of good fruit were allowed to fall to the ground and rot because no profitable market could be found for it. It came out also that in the Western Provinces consumers were required to pay from \$5 to \$5.50 per barrel for good fruit. J. A. Riddick, Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner, in giving evidence on this question, pointed out that about \$1.75 per barrel was received in the Lake Ontario and Lake Erie Districts by the members of co-operative associations, while independent growers received about \$1 per barrel. The Commissioner, in referring to the discrepancy between the first and final prices of apples, estimated that the unavoidable expenses amounted to about \$2.23 per barrel, made up as follows: Barrel, 45c.; picking, 17c.; management expenses or commission to a local buyer, 19c.; freight to Winnipeg, 80c.; broker's commission, 12c., and retailer's profit, 50c. per barrel.

The question of marketing was but one of many dealt with by the Special Committee, who had as witnesses, besides the Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner, Daniel Johnson, Forest, Ont.; S. B. Chute, Berwick, N. S.; W. S. Foggo, Vernon, B. C., and James Hardwell, Ottawa.

As evidence of the value to the grower of co-operation, Mr. Johnson instanced the case of a woman who was offered, by a local buyer, \$125 for her crop, for which she received, through a co-operative association, \$1,035.

Mr. Chute, who represented 1,500 farmers, as manager of the United Fruit Companies of Nova Scotia, explained that through his organization 5,000 tons of fertilizer had been bought from the manufacturers for the members who had benefited to the extent of about \$15,000 on purchases of fertilizers, spraying machines, and materials, farm implements, seeds, and other requirements.

Equally interesting evidence was given by the other witnesses, all of which appears in a pamphlet of 116 pages that has been printed for public distribution by the Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa.

The Packing of Fruit.

Canadian fruits, than which there are none better, are now regarded in the markets of the world at their true worth. Through the operations of the Inspection and Sale Act, the packing of Canadian fruit has been greatly improved, and the development of the trade accelerated. From time to time since its enactment, as experience has indicated, the Act has been improved in order to more completely encourage and protect the industry. The latest amendment to the Act, which was passed during the past session of Parliament, extends inspection to imported fruit, thereby placing it on an equal footing with that grown in Canada. The amendment provides that the Governor-in-Council, by regulation, may prescribe the kinds of imported fruit, the packages containing which must be branded or marked; the brands or marks to be used thereon, as well as the methods and places where such branding shall be done. Other minor changes were effected in the Act.

For the information of those interested in the fruit trade, there has been issued by the Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner, a pamphlet designated Bulletin No. 40 of the Dairy and Cold Storage Branch, containing the Inspection and Sale Act, Part 9 (the Fruit Marks Act and Fruit Packages), as amended. Copies of this bulletin are available to those who apply for them to the Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa.

ELDER SISTER.

The One—"Who is the girl that just passed?"
The Other—"That's Miss Nutt."
The One—"Hazel?"
The Other—"Ches."