

Mr. D. W. DUMBLE (Peterborough): Just for information, and that we may have a more definite conception of that, I would ask: How do you get at the returns?

Mr. JAMES: I suppose that would necessitate in the first place explaining how the government obtains its figures in regard to many of those crops.

Mr. DUMBLE: This figure is so astounding to us that actually I am incredulous; and I want to know your basis.

Mr. JAMES: In the first place, we must find how many producing trees there are in Ontario. Take apples, for instance. There are two ways of getting at a thing of that kind. One is to go to every man over the entire Province and ask him how many apple trees he has on his farm. That is done in the taking of a census—done every ten years in the Province of Ontario. In getting these returns from year to year, however, we have assessors' returns as to the acreage of our orchard and garden. Unfortunately these returns are not definite enough for us to base our reports upon. Every spring the Department of Agriculture sends out—one time we sent out 110,000 or 115,000 cards—to the the farmers in the Province. Sometimes we get these names from voters' lists, and we keep checking them over so that we know that the lists are simply and solely farmers. Last year we got the names from the public school teachers. We got the address of every public school teacher in the Province. To that public school teacher we sent asking for the name of the farmers in his school section. These names came back. Then we knew we had at first hand the names of the farmers in each school section of the Province. Putting these together, they ran up into thousands and thousands. Then to these farmers we sent out blank forms asking them as to the number of acres in their farm, the number of acres in pasture, the number of acres in wheat, and so on; the amount of stock; value of their farm; value of their implements; and also in the last two years we have asked them the number of plum trees, pear trees, peach trees, grape vines, and so on and from these we have taken our returns. We have not the time or the staff to do that every year; but when we get the total acreage of a township, and returns from as large a proportion of that as possible, from that we have to make an estimate. We may be a little too high in some cases, a little too low in others; but these will offset one another, taking the Province as a whole, and from that we get our returns. At the end of the season we send a card asking for a return per tree of the various fruits; then it is a matter of calculation—of summing up. For instance, last year the hay crop was valued at \$36,000,000. That is a crop that every one knows is large; but the point that I made was that fruit is so neglected by the ordinary farmer that he does not consider it of very much value, but when you come to put it together it amounts to a large sum.

Mr. EDWARDS: Then you consider these figures you have given us 'are fairly reliable?

Mr. JAMES: I think I have under-estimated rather than over-estimated.

The PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, this is an important subject, and we have a gentleman here who has been operating in that direction for two or three years. We will be glad to have any question. I may say that in addition to the regular programme of subjects we have questions. Any question that is called for we will be glad to bring it up; also if any gentleman wishes to put any question, the Secretary is always ready to receive it and have it brought forward at any time. We might take up the third question on the paper, and I would ask Mr. Smith to open the discussion on it.

THE MOST PROFITABLE APPLE.

Q. What one variety of summer, fall and winter apples has paid most profit in the commercial orchards of Ontario, during the past ten years?

Mr. A. M. SMITH (St. Catharines): I can only speak from the standard of the Niagara District, and in beginning I would say that no variety of apple has been very profitable there for the last three years. Our apple crop has been almost a failure.

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