

to what firms in Britain are reliable and good firms to ship to. They really don't know what they are going to do with their apple crop. It is too large to put in their cellars or to trust to their local market consumption; the time is short; the apple buyer comes around—I have been one—and he says, "I cannot give you more than so much for apples;" the farmer replies, "Well, you don't get out of this yard till you have them, because I don't want them to freeze or spoil on my hands," and he sells them at whatever price the buyer sees fit to give. Mr. Shuttleworth referred to the honesty of the commission men in the British market. Now, I have not a word to say about their honesty at all. I have shipped to them for years and years, and always come out very satisfactorily indeed—not, indeed, with a very large margin of profit, but without sinking any money. I believe they are just as honest as any other class of men, but I believe that their style of doing business is not in the interests of the fruit growers of this country. Now I will venture to say there is in this room many a man who has a brother, sister, father or mother who is living in England to-day and who has written about Canadian apples, and I will venture to say that you cannot show me one that has bought a good barrel of Canadian apples to put in his cellar or his house for use at very much less than six or seven dollars a barrel. I have had it from a dozen of them. Now, our apples are sold there at about twelve shillings on the average; that would represent in round numbers three dollars a barrel. Now, how in the world does the consumer pay so much and the producer get so little? The transportation company gets a dollar and a little more; I hope the buyer gets a little of it, he deserves it even if he is something in the road, as we call him. But the other part I don't know where it goes, unless to the fellow who rolls the barrel on the waggon, and another part for drawing it, and another for rolling it off again, and another for taking the empty barrel away and burning it and clearing up the rubbish. In the best interests of the grower I think we ought to get out of that rut if we can. I claim that the closer we come in touch with the consumer of any country the better off we are. The nearer our market is to our door the better it is for us, and when we get our growers to take hold of this matter and pack their apples, I hope by that time we will be able to ask the Government to fill the gap that is now vacant by an inspector and ask him to inspect at the point of shipment and brand them just as they are—not that we are going to make it compulsory for our growers to have their apples inspected, but to give those who want their apples inspected a brand that will introduce them into the British market. I hope our Government will do something on the line that they are going to do with the dead meat trade, that is, that they will have emporiums throughout the land where Canadian meat will be represented and sold as Canadian meat. And when the product gets directly in that way to the consumer we will get better results than we get to-day. In regard to the Englishman not liking our grapes I think Mr. Shuttleworth needs an answer. Grapes are a product that we are growing immense quantities of, and we are prepared to put them on any market at a low price and yet one that will be satisfactory to the producer in this country. When Englishmen come to this country—and I have met many of them—they do enjoy our grapes, and I venture to say that if there is a Canadian that can put away more of them than an Englishman does when he comes here, he is a pretty good specimen. (Laughter and applause). I say we will put them in the British market so cheap that the poor man and his family can indulge in that luxury which to-day he dare not touch. Take another point—our Canadian tomato—I don't believe there is a country in the world that can produce a tomato equal to that grown in the Province of Ontario.

Mr. BOUTLER: That is so.

Mr. PETTIT: What is the price of those in the British market—two, four, six and seven pence a pound. What do they run in Canada? One-half cent a pound.

Mr. McNEILL: One-quarter cent a pound.

Mr. PETTIT: Give them a half cent.

Mr. McNEILL: I will contract to sell anyone here for twenty cents a bushel, I don't care how many carloads you take.

Mr. PETTIT: Half a cent a pound for Canadian tomatoes in our market is about the average price they are bringing to-day, and I have quoted you the price in the British market