

Mr. Brandrith—Being a fruit-grower and naturally interested, on the date mentioned by Mr. Hutcherson, I took a stroll down Main Street, Winnipeg, to inquire for British Columbia apples. I found none of these, but plenty of California fruit. I also found the plums from Washington were selling at 50c. to 75c. a crate; these prices were obtainable in Vancouver. Crab apples were being sold for 35c., while we could get 5c. per lb. for them in Vancouver. So you can readily see there was nothing in sending fruit to that point. I called on the McPherson Fruit Company, who were very kind to me, and I gained the information that the best plums and pears they had ever had came from British Columbia. I found that the bulk of their pears were obtained from Ohio; apples from Ontario, and these latter were selling for \$3 per barrel. At the time I supposed that the chief difficulty in the way of shipping was the charges of the C. P. R., but I since found that the principal fault is in the manner of packing, as our growers will not do the work properly. I think the business of this Association should be to see that the growers pack their fruit properly and honestly. I am sorry that I have to bear out Mr. Hutcherson in his statement.

Mr. Kipp—These remarks apply to Manitoba; we have not heard anything of the markets of the North-West. It seems to me this is the point we should place our fruit.

Mr. Hutcherson—Mr. Kipp has brought up the question of the Western market. That is where we should place our fruit; but this season we simply spoiled it for ourselves. Early in the season we had contracts for fruit to be shipped regularly at fair rates, but later on telegrams kept coming in to us every day ordering us to discontinue shipping more, as fruit was obtainable from our own growers at much lower prices. As the situation became very serious, it was thought necessary for me to go to the North-West and look into this matter. I found that the Kelowna Shippers' Union were shipping their fruit to Station and Express Agents, to be sold at the best price it would bring, and thus were underselling us all along the line. We were getting from 50c. to 75c. before this transpired, whereas the Kelowna people only calculated to clean up 25c.

Mr. Kipp—Then, if that is the case, it is not market that we want, but union. I am of the opinion that the proper course would be to confine ourselves to shipping in carload lots.

Mr. Hutcherson—The Exchange is just in this position: that we have now got the information that will enable us to do good and satisfactory work, and now it would appear as if there was no use for the Exchange.

Mr. Mead—I would like to ask, what course was adopted with regard to good and bad fruit?

Mr. Hutcherson—In all cases, except the McPherson Fruit Co., each person got just what his fruit brought.

Mr. Mead—I do not think it fair that a grower should be asked to ship his good fruit to stand upon the same basis as bad fruit.

Mr. Hutcherson—Take the case of Mr. Campbell, who shipped direct. If no other fruit went to the McPherson Fruit Co. than his would stand alone, otherwise all fruit arriving would go in together.

Mr. Moggridge—I think this discussion is out of order.

Mr. Kipp—I am of the same opinion, and think these matters should be referred to the Exchange meeting. However, I think there is another point, the question of plum rot, to be considered.

Mr. Hine—Does this Association ship fruit or not? (Mr. Wilson—No.) Then fruit should not be discussed. I would like to ask Mr. Hutcherson if he considers bad fruit injures good fruit in a car?

Mr. Hutcherson—All kinds of fruit were affected because the car was too hot; but I do not know that diseased fruit would injure that which was sound in a car. This is just in line with our committee's report. Our man should be in the North-West to examine fruit and separate the good from the bad, and he should be given something to do. I have no doubt that if three or four individual shipments are sent on the same day they will all go in together and be treated in the same way, unless there is a man on hand to keep a report for the Association. It is one of the things we have to decide here this afternoon, as Mr. Moggridge says, whether this man is to be useful or not.

Mr. Palmer—How would it be possible for one man to cover the whole ground? Mr. Hutcherson has stated that when the McPherson Co. undertook to handle all our fruit they promised to put six men on the road. I think, possibly, the man could arrange to take out fruit at certain points, but this would not be just to others.