

contract for the British market, for example, to have the inspector see that the goods shall be up to the standard marked upon the barrel. If it is marked "No. 1" that barrel shall contain No. 1 apples; if it is "No. 2" that it shall contain a certain grade of apples as set forth in that Act. Who is doing this fraudulent packing? Is it the fruit grower of Ontario? I do not believe it is. It is the speculators who buy very large quantities; and when a man undertakes to cover such a large scope of territory and to handle such immense quantities of fruit, it is impossible for him to get men well enough posted to go about the country and put up those apples in the condition they ought to be put up. Now, I do not think any buyer or shipper desires to have his apples put up badly, and if the Inspection Act was carried out, proper inspectors appointed at ports of shipment, and, if we could have local inspectors to inspect and brand those barrels before they leave this Province at all for the British market, then you would begin to work up the standard of Canadian fruit for market.

Now, I believe there is no country in the world that can produce better fruit than we can in the Province of Ontario, so when the growers do not pack their fruit properly it is a discredit to us all in the British market, and an injury to our business. I made a little estimate this morning, taking 300 barrels as an easy basis for figuring. Taking this year as an average price for Canadian fruit, the average in the British market will not exceed twelve shillings a barrel, which would be \$900 realized on the 300 barrels. Counting the packing and shipping of the apples at 15 cents a barrel, and barrels themselves 27 cents, freight and commission \$1.10 per barrel, a total expense of \$236, the shipper will receive net \$664 for his 300 barrels at 12 shillings a barrel. Now, let me take out 100 barrels, sorting them out more carefully, and put up 200 barrels at 15 shillings a barrel—that is a moderate estimate; that will be \$750. Deduct the same proportion of expense, \$79, and this will leave the shipper \$671, instead of \$664 for 300 barrels, or a margin of profit that is as large by putting 200 barrels through in this condition as the 300. Now, he has 100 barrels or 300 bushels of good apples for the evaporator, apples that will bring him to-day in our market here from 25c. to 30c. per bushel. He can get that after he has taken out his seconds, all excepting the ciders; but by putting this 100 barrels of seconds with his peelers, he will run the peelers up to 30 cents a bushel—we will put them at 25 cents a bushel, which will give him \$75. He will then get \$746 for his 200 first-class barrels and 100 peelers, instead of \$664 on his 300 barrels. Now, besides all this, there is a great deal of waste of energy, a great deal of waste of labor and a great loss of credit. I believe if we look at this thing properly we will make more money by working along these lines than we will by shipping such stuff to the British market; and I believe, more than that, that we can establish in our country a great market for evaporated fruits, and the more we can do to encourage this business and manage to dispose of the product in this country, the better for us. I was not prepared to deal with so important a subject to-day; I have not come here with any prepared ideas on the matter, but I will submit this point: that I believe a system of inspection—a voluntary inspection for those who wish it—would be a step in the right direction to have carried out; and I believe that thorough inspection at the port of shipment, where possible, and also in fruit-growing sections of the country during fruit season, will accomplish a good work and begin to establish in the British market Canadian-inspected apples as the best in the world. I get a great many catalogues of the sales of fruits of the United States, as well as the Canadian, and I fail to see that there is very much difference except in the barrel. I believe the American barrel is slightly smaller than ours, holding about a peck less, and the prices, as a rule, run about that peck less in value; therefore, I believe there is very little difference in the standard of packing.

The CHAIRMAN: We would be glad to hear from Mr. Carpenter in reference