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THE WISHES OF FRUIT GROWERS IGNORED

IN spite of the apparently unanimous wishes of the fruit growers of Canada the Hon. Sydney Fisher, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, has placed the Fruit Division under the control of the Dairy Commissioner. This means that in matters of policy affecting the fruit industry the chief of the fruit division must consult the Dairy Commissioner and has no right to confer direct with the Minister of Agriculture. It means that the fruit industry is placed on a lower level than the dairy and live stock industries and even than the matter of the sale of seeds, as all three have been recognized by the appointment of commissioners subordinate in their work only to the Minister of Agriculture.

When it became known, some months ago, that it was proposed to place the chief of the fruit division under the control of the Dairy Commissioner protest was immediately made by fruit growers in all parts of Canada. Resolutions opposing such a move were passed by several associations including the provincial fruit growers associations of Prince Edward Island and British Columbia.

The protest from the British Columbia association was as follows:

"We, the undersigned, the members of the executive committee of the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association, beg to protest against the reported proposal to unite the Dairy and Fruit divisions of the

Department of Agriculture under one head. We feel that the fruit industry in the Dominion is becoming so important that the chief of the Fruit Division should be next to the minister and not subordinate to the chief of any other division.

(Signed) "R. M. PALMER.

"H. KIPP.

"T. W. STIRLING.

"J. C. METCALFE.

"W. J. BRANDRITH."

The Prince Edward Island growers at their annual convention in December passed the following resolution unanimously:

"Whereas it has come to the knowledge of this association, through the press that an amalgamation of the Fruit with the Dairy Division of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, is in contemplation; therefore it is resolved that this assemblage of the fruit growers of Prince Edward Island do respectfully express to the Honorable the Minister of Agriculture its unqualified disapproval of any such amalgamation as detrimental to the large and increasing horticultural interests of Canada, which call for extension in their central offices rather than restriction."

Other provincial associations would have taken similar action had they heard of the proposal in time. As it was, many prominent fruit growers wrote direct to Mr. Fisher. A number of papers also registered vigorous editorial protests.