

the part of either directors, judges, or exhibitors that indicates unfairness to any one, or fraud in any individual for the sake of gain. But that there is fraud, if not perjury, at many, if not all of our fairs in connection with fruit exhibits, I think no one who is familiar with fruit exhibits will deny. There is a certain class of exhibitors whom you might term professionals, who grow very little, if any, fruit themselves, but who buy, beg or borrow—to use a mild expression—all the best samples the country affords, and go from one fair to another showing them as their own production, and raking in the prizes—sometimes they go singly, and sometimes they club together and divide the spoils. I have even heard of their getting themselves put on as judges when, from some cause the appointed judge was absent, and judging fruit they were interested in themselves. I think it is one of the rules of all Agricultural Societies that the grain, vegetables and fruit must be grown by the exhibitor, and he must swear or certify to that effect when making his entries. Now, if a neighbor of mine shows fruit grown on my trees, no matter how he comes by it, and signs a certificate that it is his own growing, what would you call it? I know many men do this who would not like to be called dishonest or guilty of fraud, and they argue that they are not defrauding the Society, as they would have to pay the prizes to someone in any case; but they do not stop to think they are defrauding their neighbor and obtaining money under false pretences. I fear that, in many cases, directors wink at this kind of work and think it helps the show to get out these fine displays. I think they make a mistake even in this regard, for this practice has become so prevalent that many honest fruit growers will not bring out their fruit to compete against these professional prize takers, and thus many of our best fruits are kept back from exhibition. If directors of fairs are going to allow this sort of thing, let them amend their rules so as not to make men swear falsely and encourage them in dishonesty. I have noticed, with pain, that many of our young men are getting into this business. They are naturally anxious to attend fairs, and here is an opening to pay their way, have a good time and make a little money out of it besides, so they fall into the temptation.

I do not know what means to recommend to exterminate this evil, but I think this Association should at least enter its protest against such a state of affairs, and the officers of all agricultural societies should so amend and enforce their rules that these frauds may be suppressed.

Mr. BURRELL, (St. Catharines) : I always understood it was a rule at fairs that visitors should exhibit what they grow themselves. I understand, however, that at Toronto Fair you have not to sign a declaration of that kind. It is very hard to refuse a neighbor who comes in for some specimens as he is making up a variety. It is difficult when there is a rule that exhibitors must sign a declaration that the fruit is their own growing.

Mr. SMITH : Of course there are certain collections open to the general public; but if there is not such a rule as that, and you do not have to sign a document of that kind, I would like to know it.

THE PRESIDENT : Being a Director, and also Chairman of the Fruit Committee of the Toronto Fair, I would say that the rules and regulations are that all exhibits must be the *bona fide* produce of or grown by the exhibitor. We do not go the length of asking every man to make a declaration to that effect, but if we are shown on complaint of an exhibitor, or anyone in fact, that fruit so exhibited at the Exhibition was not grown by the exhibitor, that fruit would be ruled out and not be passed upon. It is just the same way in the naming of varieties. The rule is very strict in that respect, and it lies in the hands of the judges to throw out any exhibit, no matter how meritorious it may be, if there is one wrongly named plate in the collection, for instance. It seems sometimes a little hard. The idea is to have all fruit exhibited true to name, because we wish as far as it is possible to make the exhibition an educator in the fruit interests, and we think that centered there in Toronto where the large exhibits are made everything should be correct; and the judges who are present in the room know that I have always, hard as the case made be, insisted that the rule be strictly adhered to in that regard. Of course if it were thought necessary, or in the interest of the fruit growers, that a declaration should accompany every exhibit we would take measures to carry that out.