

by frequent accumulative use. This, however, is more a question for the chemist than for the merchant. The complaints have come so far only from Hamburg and Amsterdam merchants, and there the government health officers have, in many instances, actually siezed, analyzed and confiscated the goods and destroyed them. A merchant thus exposed to actual loss of all the goods that he may buy naturally stops buying, and as Hamburg has always been far the largest market for American evaporated apples, our export demand this year up to date (Nov. 17) has been almost nil.

From these quotations you will plainly see that the complaint is not one of national prejudice or of retaliation, but one of fact that has got to be met and remedied in some manner. Mr. Myers states that the return to "the use of wooden trays in evaporators, if general, would restore the business to its former proportions. Any extra cost in evaporating by this method would be readily compensated by the additional price that the goods would bring. Unless we can find a wire cloth so galvanized that the acid of the fruit will not affect it, it is clear that its use must be abandoned sooner or later. The fruit acid seems to have a close affinity for either lead, tin or zinc, and as one or all of these are used in covering the wire, it is clear that there *must* be a resultant trouble. The manufacturers of a certain grade of wire cloth claim that their silver finish high grade cloth is proof against the action of the acid. Of course, if it is well covered with silver, their claim can be sustained; but it strikes me that such cloth would be very expensive. The only metals in use that are proof against fruit acid are gold, silver and platinum. The new metal, aluminum, when it becomes cheap, as prophesied, will also meet the case. I think I should prefer to use iron wire cloth, as the iron rust cannot be called a poison, if I must use a wire cloth at all, unless the claims of the silver finish wire can be relied on, or return to wood altogether. Mr. Pincoffs further says:

As the matter now stands, evaporated apples cannot be sold in Hamburg unless the invoices are accompanied by a chemist's certificate stating goods to be free from zinc, so that the trade in the article there can be retained if a change is made in the process of manufacturing. But it may well be feared that if this change is not made, and further trouble is experienced in different parts of Germany, the German government will take the measure in hand, and having a solid argument against the article, will be only too glad to prohibit its importation into Germany unconditionally.

The following report is made by M. De Lafontaine, a reputable chemist, who has examined several samples of apples evaporated on zinc trays:

I have investigated the conditions under which zinc and zinc compounds find their way into evaporated apples, and find as follows:

1. The acid of the apple juice combines with some of the zinc of the trays and forms salts of zinc, which remains on the slices.
2. The wires of galvanized iron used to make the trays have received an extra coating of zinc, which easily peels off when the wire is bent and mixes with the fruit.

This is a matter that cannot be passed lightly by. It certainly shows a very grave state of things. We cannot question the report of the chemists in Hamburg or Amsterdam, nor should we pass lightly by the report of M. De Lafontaine. If these apples are poisonous to the Germans of Hamburg or the Dutch of Amsterdam, can you tell me of any good reason why they should not have the same effect on the good people of Canada and the United States? If the suggestions of M. De Lafontaine are true, that it may come from the peeling off of the coating caused by the bending of the wire in weaving the cloth, then higher finish on the surface will not prove a remedy. It must be found in some other way.

I trust that manufacturers of evaporated apples will not blind their eyes to these facts, and that before another year the use of lead, tin or zinc cloth may be abandoned for something that will render the taint of poison an impossibility.

After brief addresses by ex-President Allan and Vice-President Morton the meeting was adjourned until 10 o'clock Wednesday morning.