

THE TRANSPORTATION OF OUR FRUIT.

up close, they will get up to 70° in the centre of the barrel in a short time. If put in the hold of the ship the whole place soon goes above 70°, and the apples will all arrive in "slacks" and "wets." In 1897 a lot of over 500 barrels was sent over, and the half that went in cold storage sold for 13/ a bbl., and the half that went not in cold storage sold for 8/ a bbl. at the same time. I think I am safe in saying that 60% of the apples that go to Great Britain fetch less than two-thirds they would fetch if they were properly graded, properly packed and safely carried, across the sea. I think if the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario does not take hold of this transportation problem and bring about better methods and facilities, they may as well go out of the business. The growing of fruit has been very well attended to, but there has been so much loss and dissatisfaction from the spoiling of fruit on the way to the markets, both home and foreign, that the matter must be taken hold of and corrected."

Considerable discussion followed both on the subject of ocean and railway transportation, resulting in the appointment of two committees to take up these matters in earnest, appealing to the other provincial societies for co-operation; and if necessary, to appeal to the Dominion Minister of Agriculture. The Committees on Transportation were as follows: *Ocean*, L. Woolverton, W. M. Orr, and A. H. Pettit. *Railway*, W. E. Wellington, W. M. Orr, Alex. McNeill, M. Pettit, E. D. Smith, T. Carpenter, R. W. Gregory and W. H. Bunting.

These committees met jointly at the Walker House, Toronto on the 3rd of March, and after a full discussion, prepared the following resolution on *Ocean Transportation of Fruit*:

Whereas, the accommodation on Atlantic steamships has hitherto been unsuitable to the carriage of our fruits, even such hard fruits as apples being ruined in transit and arriving in the British market in an unsalable condition, although in perfectly sound condition when packed and shipped; and

Whereas, the lack of ventilation, and the great heat in the holds of the vessels, added

to the heat arising from the fruit itself, contributes to this evil, which has resulted in immense losses to the fruit growers in every province of our Dominion;

Therefore, *Resolved*,—That we memorialize the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa to take steps to remedy this serious condition of affairs, and thus give encouragement to one of the most important of our exports; that ventilation of the holds in which apples are carried be strictly required of steamship companies in order that the temperature be kept similar to that of the outside air; and that a government agent be employed at each of the important ports, as Montreal, St. Johns and Halifax, whose duty it shall be to see that such ventilation is attended to, and, further, to insist upon proper care in handling, loading and storage of our fruits on shipboard;

Further, that, when cold storage for fruit is provided on shipboard, the steamship companies shall be required to guarantee that the temperature will be kept within certain limits, and that the same be verified by a self-registering thermometer placed under government seal.

and the Secretary was ordered to send copies to local fruit growers associations and to the provincial societies most interested in export, as for example: Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island, suggesting that they pass similar resolutions, which could all be forwarded by our Secretary to the Dominion Minister of Agriculture.

The next question dealt with was the better *classification of freight rates* on fruit; better ventilation of box cars for long hauls; and greater speed in transit. The following gentlemen were made a sub committee to carefully revise the freight classification, and to interview the Freight Classification Committee at Toronto, place fairly before them our grievances and seek for the requisite concessions, viz.: Messrs. E. D. Smith, T. H. P. Carpenter, Alex. McNeill and W. H. Bunting.

We anxiously await the result.

