

*Agricultural Products Act*

of the very good times that the lumber industry has enjoyed.

**Mr. Sinclair:** You cannot log apple trees.

**Mr. Herridge:** I should like to read one of the resolutions passed at the convention to which I have referred:

Whereas it has been shown during the period of austerity restrictions that the fruit growing areas of Canada are capable of supplying the domestic market, and

Whereas production of fruit is increasing, and

Whereas the dominion government has the power of regulating imports where these are harmful to the economy of the country:

Therefore be it resolved that this 1949 B.C.F.G.A. convention requests that the dominion government regulate the importation of fruit when Canadian production is in adequate supply.

That resolution was passed unanimously, and I think it is fair. It does not ask for a tariff for purposes of protection in the ordinary sense of the word. It simply requests that, when Canadian production is sufficient to supply the demand in Canada, importation be regulated. The tree-fruit organization of British Columbia has been co-operating very well in the past year with United States fruit organizations, and has been working out a technique which can be adopted in the future with benefit to all concerned. They have not been talking about protective tariffs, as such, but have been discussing the distribution of fruit on an international basis through quotas by agreement within the industry. Where they have been short in a certain market our commodities have been sent to that point. Where we have been short of certain commodities, their commodities have been shipped into this country. I do hope the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) will give consideration to this resolution; if he does, we think it will assist in the marketing of fruits in this country.

Now I am going to deal briefly with a resolution which concerns the cherry growers, who carry on an important industry in British Columbia, which is facing a difficult future. I am mentioning this to the Minister of Agriculture because I believe if something along this line were adopted it would assist the cherry producers of Canada. The resolution reads:

Whereas a processed cherry industry of considerable importance has been established in Canada during the past seven or eight years, and

Whereas growers have been encouraged to produce cherries suitable for this industry, and

Whereas our market for these cherries is seriously threatened by the importation of similar cherries from Italy, packed in brine and subject only to a tariff of 17½ per cent ad valorem,

Therefore be it resolved by this 1949 B.C.F.G.A. convention that representations be made through the proper channels, prior to the forthcoming trade discussions between Canada and Italy, with a view to increasing this tariff to an amount equal to that

imposed by United States on similar products, viz: Cherries with pits, 5½ cents per pound; cherries pitted, 9½ cents per pound.

I ask the minister to seriously consider this as a resolution coming from the growers of British Columbia, which was adopted unanimously at their annual convention. Now I come to apples, and I have a resolution which was discussed fully and considered in great detail by various organizations within the fruit industry. This has to do with guaranteed prices for unmarketed apples, and reads:

Whereas the loss of the British and other overseas markets may endanger the welfare of the apple industry, and

Whereas reduced returns to the growers resulting from lack of markets would seriously affect the economic situation in British Columbia, and

Whereas apple growers have at present no security from reduced revenues resulting from lack of markets,

Therefore be it resolved that this 1949 B.C.F.G.A. convention goes on record as recommending to the provincial and federal governments that they guarantee a minimum price to the growers for unmarketed apples of desirable varieties, sizes and grades.

I am glad to say the government has done something in this connection; I understand it has guaranteed 200,000 boxes at \$2 a box. I believe, however, this request from the fruit industry of British Columbia should receive further consideration by the government, with a view to establishing some permanent floor policy and protection, in this respect, for the industry.

Now I have just two more matters to present, and I am trying to be as brief as possible. The next resolution concerns the marketing of Canadian apples in Australia, and reads:

Whereas for many years the government of Australia has imposed an embargo against the import of Canadian apples on the ground that fire blight might be carried to Australian orchards, and

Whereas horticulturists agree that it would be impossible to transmit fire blight through shipments of packed apples,

Therefore be it resolved by this 1949 B.C.F.G.A. convention that the dominion government be urged to open negotiations with Australia with a view to having this inexcusable embargo removed so that when the financial situation permits, Canadian apples may be marketed in Australia.

In connection with that resolution I wish to make this observation. We have trade commissioners in all parts of the world. I am sometimes of the opinion that these trade commissioners are often well acquainted with commercial or industrial products that companies may have to sell, but that when it comes to looking after the products the farmers have to sell they are not so concerned or so well informed. In my view any trade commissioner operating in Australia who discovered that Canadian apples were being denied entry to the Australian market as a protection against fire blight should have