

uncertain demand. The very top prices are about £40 per ton, rarely £42, usually from £18 to £26. Now, these prices would nett in Canada not more than 5 cents per pound for the raw fruit at the very best, down to almost nothing when the pulp sells for £18 a ton; so if the fresh fruit can be sold at all at anything like the common prices then it would not pay to turn it into pulp for export. But sometimes there is a surplus of fresh fruit that is unsalable either from very small size or poor quality, and that might make a fair quantity of pulp; but at £40 per ton the 8½ cents per pound there would not nett more than five cents per pound for the green fruit after taking off the cost of the package, the cost of the fruit, the commission and allowing 10% for shrinkage for the evaporation of the fruit during the preserving process. When it gets down to £20 per ton, the cost of the package, freight, commission and shrinkage reduces the account sales into a cipher for the man who ships; so that in the normal conditions of the market there is not a cent a pound for our green fruit, and in the abnormal conditions which have existed the last few years it would not be five cents a pound for the raspberries and the apricots. If any of the fruit growers are anxious to try this business and will furnish the pulp, our Department will take charge of the shipment of such pulp and see that they are put in the best markets of England, and give full returns for the fruit before the trial is made. I am not hopeful that any large trade will grow up for that stuff from Canada, since we have such a good market now for those two classes of fruit which are wanted in the form of fruit pulp.

MR. BOULTER (Picton): At £40 per ton it would not realize quite as much as Prof. Robertson stated, that is, taking out ordinary charges. However, later on I will be able to ship pulp, and if any members of the Association have large plantations of raspberries that are any way convenient to Toronto it could be got very cheaply. I intend to give this a thorough test the coming season. My theory is that unless a grower can get at least four or five cents a pound for his raspberries in their natural state there is not a great deal of money in it; and unless it could nett that to the grower—which we have always failed to do in our county—I would not advise a person going into it unless he were skilled in putting it up. It costs considerable to get it up. It is a good idea that that invitation came, because for the last two years raspberries have been a drug in Ontario, and they have not been selling as they should have, for what reason I do not know. There is a variety of raspberry that might be cultivated for pulp—the Shaffer. It is an enormous bearer, much better producer than the Outhbert, but inferior in quality, and it will not do for our business in Canada in what is called preserving, being too soft and going to pulp. Cuthberts will stand up under the cooking necessary to be done. Possibly as they could be grown for one to two cents a quart less than Cuthberts, and a success might be made of them. I have sent some of them over to see if they would do as well as the Outhberts have. In the prices quoted, you must remember that a ton is a long ton, not 2000 pounds, but 2240, which cuts quite a hole in the amount you expect to receive. My own opinion at present would be that there is nothing in the pulp business except for raspberries. Do not attempt anything else. Do not attempt strawberries. This pulp is an experiment yet, but I intend to send over quite a lot next year if the crops are good.

COMMITTEE. Messrs. W. Boulter, of Picton, A. McNair, of Walkerville, and Rev. W. J. Andrews, of Grimsby, were appointed a committee to investigate the subject and make arrangements for some trial shipments.

Canners and others interested are requested to correspond with this committee.

PROSPECTS FOR EXPORT OF TENDER FRUIT.

PROF. J. W. ROBERTSON, Commissioner of Agriculture, said: Mr. President and Gentlemen: Before I say much for the prospects for an export demand for tender fruits I would like to make a few observations on the present status of the business of growing