

1 GEORGE V., A. 1911

for perishable products such as fruit, the time occupied between Niagara and Winnipeg being about four and a half days.

A. Of course, that point of time is in favour of the Northwest market. The best we can do in putting Niagara fruit on the English market is three weeks from the time of picking until the fruit reaches the consumer. It is going to be rather difficult to always have the fruit in just the right stage when picked and packed so as to reach the consumer in the proper condition, because we are working on a very narrow margin, and peaches ripen quickly.

Q. Some of the fruit this last year went at express rates?

A. You mean to the Northwest?

Q. Yes.

A. We found in the shipping of peaches to Great Britain that the refrigerator car was by far the best and safest means of carriage, and of course shipment by freight was very much cheaper than by express to Montreal.

*By Mr. Thornton:*

Q. Going back to the question of the shipment of apples again, do you think that the exercise of care in the packing and shipping, that trade would be cultivated just in the way you have indicated?

A. I certainly think it would. I suppose all the members have received a copy of Bulletin 24, which we published last spring, entitled 'A Report on some Trial Shipments of Cold Storage Apples.' This bulletin gives full details of these shipments with the prices obtained for the apples, and it will be sent to any one who applies for it. That would have been the net price to the grower. They varied in price, but I will not go into that, because if you want information on that point you can get it in the bulletin referred to. We divided one lot of apples, leaving half of them in a frost proof warehouse and placing the other half in cold storage. We made a better net return on the apples placed in the cold storage than we did on those in the frost proof warehouse, although we did not have to pay any storage charges on the latter. The saving of waste paid the cost of the cold storage.

The CHAIRMAN.—I am sure we have listened with a great deal of pleasure, as well as profit, to the address Mr. Ruddick has given us respecting the work he has been carrying on. I think he has demonstrated to us clearly the immense possibility that we have in cold storage. He has shown us here to-day grapes that are not supposed to keep more than two or three weeks, which have been kept for several months and which are now in almost perfect condition. He has shown us most conclusively the great possibilities there are in the development of our fruit industry in the matter of carrying over fruit in cold storage. The address, I am sure, must result in very great benefit to the fruit industry of the Dominion of Canada.

Committee adjourned.

Certified correct.

J. A. RUDDICK.