

# The Canadian Horticulturist

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## The Dominion Fruit Conference

THE Dominion Fruit Conference that took place in Ottawa March 20, 21 and 22, was the most important gathering of the kind ever convened in Canada. In spite of the fact that the meetings should have been extended over a week, instead of over only three days, many matters of vital interest to the fruit industry were dealt with, and decisions concerning same reached and recorded. Owing to the short time available for the consideration of the numerous important points raised, it was not possible for those present to draft as carefully as was desirable some of the resolutions that were adopted. In the form in which they were passed, however, together with the discussions that took place concerning them, they will serve to make known the opinions and desires of the most thoroughly representative gathering of fruit growers that, as yet, has been held in the Dominion. Owing to lack of time many important matters that were on the program for discussion were not touched. This was unfortunate, but the disappointment of those present was dispelled, in a large measure, when Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion, announced that he would arrange for similar gatherings every two or three years in future. This announcement brought out hearty applause.

Put briefly, the most important recommendations passed were the following: That in the Fruit Marks Act a new grade, to be known as "fancy," shall be established, which will include perfect fruit only.

That the act define a number two apple. A definition of a number two was adopted.

That in future the numbers 1, 2 and 3 only shall be used in grading fruit, and that the marking x, xx or xxx shall be discouraged.

That the penalty imposed in the case of third convictions for infractions of the act shall be increased.

That the 28 inch barrel shall be made the standard barrel, and the use of larger barrels be discontinued.

That the standard box used for the export of fruit shall be made the standard box for inter-provincial trade as well.

That the department prepare and distribute widely regular reports on fruit crop conditions throughout Canada, and in the United States and Europe as well; these reports to be issued twice a month during the late summer and fall. Hon. Mr. Fisher expressed his willingness to undertake work of this nature.

That cars of apples for export be iced at the government expense, as is now done in the case of dairy products. Hon. Mr. Fisher promised that this will be done.

That direct sales by growers to retailers be encouraged, and that the

from sun and rain shall be furnished at all stations where fruit is loaded in carload quantities, and that shippers shall be kept informed of the location of cars in transit.

That the Pure Foods Law be enforced in regard to the manufacture of jams and jellies.

That the making of exhibits of Canadian fruit at foreign exhibitions shall be encouraged.

That spraying demonstrations in the various provinces be continued and extended, and

That several improvements shall be made in the shipment of fruit across the Atlantic.

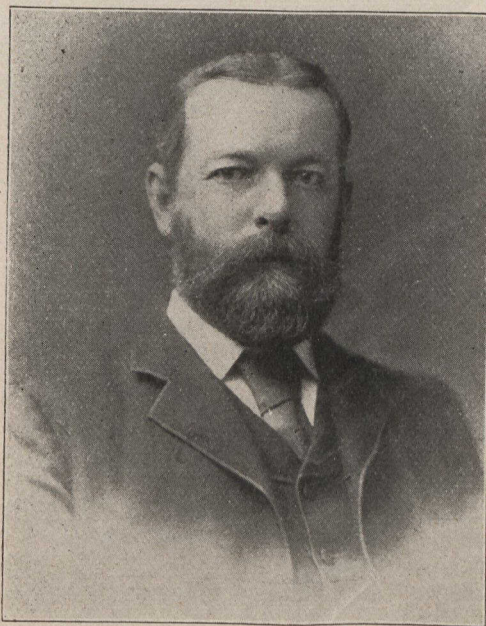
The resolutions committee also brought in a resolution calling for the separation of the fruit from the dairy division of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, but, as described elsewhere, through some clever manipulation on the part of the chairman, Hon. Sydney Fisher, this resolution was not dealt with.

A resolution recommending the provincial governments to enact legislation that will protect growers from being defrauded by commission dealers was adopted.

### THE CONFERENCE

The conference was called by Hon. Sydney Fisher, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, as a result of requests made during recent years by the various provincial fruit growers' associations. Growers have long felt the need for the convening of such a gathering, that matters of national importance pertaining to the fruit interests, which could not be discussed satisfactorily at provincial meetings, might be considered and dealt with.

The most noticeable feature of the sessions was the national spirit that manifested itself in the remarks of the various delegates. There was a subdued enthusiasm all through the meetings, and an apparent desire to harmonize the various conflicting interests of the different provinces. Again and again delegates expressed a willingness to give way on minor matters relating to their province or provinces in order that harmonious action might be possible on the part of all the provinces. This assisted in the solution of several



Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture  
Who presided with great ability at the sessions of the  
Dominion Fruit Conference

government appoint men whose duty it will be to develop markets for fruit in Great Britain and on the continent.

That express companies shall be placed under the control of the Railway Commission.

That railway companies be required to give a service with fruit cars of not less than 12 miles an hour; that they be held responsible for damage to fruit when they fail to furnish cars within six days after the cars have been ordered; that they establish icing stations at divisional points; that protection