

ance with a resolution to this effect passed by the annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Fruit-growers' Association and following similar recommendations from individual growers. This change was concurred in by a staff-meeting of the District Fruit Inspectors, and an expression of opinion is also being asked from the Ontario Fruit-growers' Association. The original intention of the Dominion Fruit Conference in 1918 in creating this grade was to provide a place for oversized, poorly coloured or slightly scabby or otherwise defective apples which would be thrown out of the No. 1 grade, but which constituted a valuable grade for many purposes and particularly for immediate use. The grade has undoubtedly been abused and the market flooded with apples marked "Domestic," but of such poor quality that they were not only unsaleable themselves but prevented the profitable sale of apples of better grade and quality.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: In the second line of paragraph b are the words "not less than nearly medium size," and in the second line of paragraph c the words, "not less than medium size." What is the object of using the word "nearly"?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: It would be in order that a somewhat smaller apple could be put in No 2 than in No. 1.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: If that is the case, should not the word "nearly" go into paragraph c also?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The explanation is that the Domestic is supposed to be a No. 1, except that it has not the colour.

Subsection 1 of section 3, was agreed to.

On subsection 2—grades for apples, crab-apples and pears in boxes:

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: All this subsection 2 is new. It is submitted in order to meet the American competition. It is simply to cover the boxes. These grades are exactly the same as those of the principal Western States.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL: Does the word "boxes" include barrels?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Not in this section. This just applies to boxes.

Hon. Mr. BRADBURY: I would like to ask the leader of the Government if this Bill has been considered by any public body in Canada other than the growers themselves. It seems to me that the Bill is framed altogether in the interest of the fruit-growers. The consuming public in Canada has suffered severely

for many years from the manner in which apples are packed. I know of cases in this city where apples came from Ontario, and some of the barrels were half full of very ripe apples, but the balance of the apples were green, consequently they did not keep. The same thing applies to our smaller fruits. It seems to me that a measure of this kind, in which the public are so directly interested, should go before a committee that would give the public an opportunity of appearing here in their own interest. I understand the Bill has been submitted to a committee of fruit-dealers, men who are directly interested in this trade, and I feel that the public interest is not being served.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Of course, it is difficult to reach the individual consumer, but there was a conference in Ottawa on the 22nd of February last year, and of the 32 official delegates 20 were fruit-growers and representatives of associations, 6 represented the wholesale fruit trade, 9 were package manufacturers, one was a jam manufacturer, one was a nurseryman, and one represented the retailers. They all represented provincial organizations—men of the trade who had the greatest interest in standardizing their own trade and protecting themselves.

Hon. Mr. BRADBURY: That is exactly what I object to.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: When I say protecting themselves, I mean increasing guarantees for themselves which involves guarantees for the public. The honourable gentleman has mentioned a grievance. Well, this Bill tends to cure the evil he mentions, and provincial associations that are solely interested in furthering the public interests, as well as delegates from the provinces, have been examining this Bill and passing upon it, so that we have the opinion of the official representatives of the various provinces that are interested in fruit-growing.

Subsection 2 was agreed to.

On section 4—marks required:

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: In paragraph a, only the first five words are new: "if packed in barrels or half-barrels." Paragraphs b and c are absolutely new. The changes in connection with marking are necessary in order to correspond with the new grade names for boxes. The balance of the section, except subsection 7, is not altered. Subsection 7 is new:

(7) Fruit packed in open packages bearing any of the grade marks defined in section three, must comply with the said grade requirements.