

Mr. J. W. LONGLEY, M. P. P., also responded to this toast in a brief and witty speech.

Mr. A. S. MURRAY said:—As one of the guests of the evening I take the liberty of proposing as a toast "*The Fruit Growers' Association of Nova Scotia*," coupling with it the name of the President of the Association.

Mr. AVARD LONGLEY, in responding, said: Mr. Vice-Chairman and Gentlemen,—If some of you have been taken by surprise to-night when your names were announced, coupled with the several toasts that have been presented, I am sure that I among all of you have been most surprised. I was congratulating myself on the delightful position that I had enjoyed all the evening of placing other gentlemen in awkward positions, when lo and behold I find myself in a more awkward position than any of them. I am asked to say a word or two in response to the toast of "*The Fruit Growers' Association of Nova Scotia*," and I can only say at the outset that I wish I had more eloquence in my composition, in fact I wish I could spread myself a little. It seems as if on an occasion like the present a little spread-eagleism was allowable, and yet perhaps the more modestly we speak the more successful and effective will be our observations. However, I feel that there need not be a word said to any of you gentlemen in respect to the good that has been accomplished through the instrumentality of Fruit Growers' Association. It has been my high gratification to have been connected with Associations whose special mission was the reform of the world; and in reference to the labor of many years in connection with these Associations, and in regard to what I may have said or done towards assisting in forwarding their respective interests, I must certainly say has been derived a large proportion of the pleasure and gratification which I have experienced during the various stages of my life, from youth up to almost old age. I believe, gentlemen, we have laid the foundation of wondrous prosperity in the future in connection with one of the most fruitful sources of income in Nova Scotia, and this has been largely brought about by those whose lot has been cast in the beautiful, and I may say celebrated valley of Annapolis, and those of us who have enjoyed this privilege should daily present our thanks to the Giver of all good for the fact that in this respect the lines have indeed fallen to us in pleasant places.