

### Express Companies Censured

A deputation of prominent fruit growers met the Board of Railway Commissioners in Toronto recently and laid complaints against the express companies. They asked that the companies be compelled to give lower and more uniform rates and to handle the fruit with greater care than has been the custom in the past. Mr. W. H. Bunting, of St. Catharines, stated that many growers have stopped shipping by express and have taken to freight on account of the unsatisfactory express conditions. He referred to losses during transportation and to the difficulty in securing settlement of claims. It was pointed out that the growers take the fruit to the cars themselves and that same is unloaded, in the case of Toronto, by the commission men, the express companies thereby having less trouble with it than with ordinary merchandise and therefore should give lower rates.

Mr. James E. Johnson, of Simcoe, showed that express rates from Simcoe to Hamilton and Toronto are much higher than from St. Catharines to these cities although the distances are about the same. He claimed that while shipping fruit out of Chicago he had found the express companies in the United States willing to pay losses from damage to the fruit caused by delays in transit for which the railways were responsible.

Mr. E. D. Smith, of Winona, pointed out

that if Ontario growers are to compete in the western Canada markets against the fruit from California and Oregon which, owing to its dry texture is shipped there by freight, our fruit must be forwarded by express. The express companies' charges are so excessive it makes it difficult for Ontario growers to do so. He protested against the claim in the agreement, that the express companies compel the shippers to sign, relieving the former of any liability for damage to the fruit caused by delays to the cars while in transit. Mr. Smith thought that the express companies should be liable for such loss.

A number of other growers addressed the commission. A deputation from Grimsby asked for a general reduction in express rates, a graded rate on size of shipment, the stopping of pilfering and the rough handling of fruit, the placing of responsibility for delay in handling fruit, proper accommodation and suitably ventilated cars. After hearing the evidence, the chairman of the commission, Judge Maybee,

ordered the express companies to confer with the fruit men with a view to meeting their wishes. It is expected that a satisfactory understanding will be arrived at before the next fruit season.

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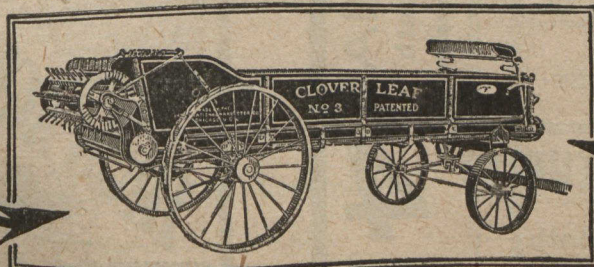
The good effects upon the crop are immediate and the permanent benefit to the land is greater than when the manure is spread by hand. There is no question but that land manured by an I. H. C. manure spreader will give an increased yield of from two to ten bushels per acre over land where manure is spread by hand.

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