

dare say some hon. gentlemen opposite will not wish to hear it. I may say that very many of the fruit-growers of that county who have had business with him have expressed themselves to me as having the highest respect for this young man, and as thinking that he is well qualified, and is going to make a very superior officer. If they are satisfied with him I presume that the members of this House might very well be. The hon. leader of the opposition seems to think it is an obstacle to a man being appointed to anything if he possesses a library. I do not think so myself. It seems to me that the argument used on the other side as to the father's avocation and politics, is illustrated by the story of the gentleman who was asked what his religion was, and answered that he was a Presbyterian by his first wife. Here is a clever young man who is giving every satisfaction to the people who know him and his work; but gentlemen in this House who do not know him or the work he is doing, are entirely dissatisfied with him.

Mr. LANCASTER. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will tell us what Mr. McKinnon did down there which has given so much satisfaction; because I happen to come from the county where this gentleman has been living for the last six years, since his father has had a fruit farm; and every one there wondered who this young man was—whether he was any relation to the man who bought the fruit farm a few years ago. It never dawned on them that it could be the young man in question, because he was at college at the time he was sent to Paris. I think the hon. member for Annapolis must have got his information from the very fact that the young man is not able to inspect fruit; because, if the fruit-growers of Annapolis are so thoroughly satisfied with the work he was doing, the only way that I can reconcile the statement made on this side of the House with the hon. member's statement is that he has not been inspecting apples in the county of Annapolis as they ought to be inspected, and that he is satisfactory to the fruit-growers because he lets everything go as they put it up.

Mr. WADE. Will the hon. gentleman explain how it would be pleasing to the fruit-growers of Annapolis not to have the fruit inspected properly? Does he mean that they are dishonest and do not want to have the fruit properly inspected?

Mr. SPROULE. I suppose the fruit-growers were satisfied with the conditions that existed before, and if some person was sent there to inspect who did not know anything about fruit, they would be content to go on as they had been doing before. It seems to me that the question for the House is this: What are the qualifications necessary for an inspector? What does the Act provide? It provides that he shall know the names

and varieties of apples. There are hundreds of varieties, and how could a young man without any acquaintance with the fruit business, or without being trained to it, be expected to designate the names and varieties of the different apples or the grade of the fruit? One apple might be small and another large, but both good of their kind.

Mr. HEYD. How much intelligence is required to tell a big apple from a little one?

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. gentleman has given such evidence of his knowledge and of his desire to shield his friends that I think the House will be quite satisfied to hear but little more from him. This inspector has to see that such fruit shall consist of full-grown specimens of the one variety, but how would he know there was only one variety in the barrel. It would take the best of experts to distinguish the varieties in some cases, they look so much alike. Even fruit-growers have to send their apples down to experts at Toronto to determine the varieties and the disputes that arise at agricultural fairs are often so animated that the judges themselves cannot decide to what particular variety an apple may belong, although they are men who have been all their lives raising apples in the district. But this young man who was never engaged or in the fruit business, is expected to teach fruit-growers the difference between one variety and another. He is also to determine whether the fruit packed is falsely marked, and if he finds it is, he has to efface the mark and inscribe the words 'falsely marked.' But how can he do so if he has no experience or practical training? He could not tell whether there was a mixture of two or three varieties or whether the apples were full grown. That could only be done by some one who was in the apple-growing business or accustomed to handle and export apples. The information we have is that this young man cannot possibly have expert knowledge and therefore must be unfit for the position. The hon. member for Annapolis says he has satisfied the people in Annapolis and must therefore have satisfied the whole country. But that will not satisfy the fruit-growers and handlers who believe that the inspector ought to be expert in the line—one who can distinguish the different varieties, who knows what is a well matured apple and what is not, who knows what is an average sized apple, and who can tell when the Act has been complied with in the selection, packing and marking of the fruit.

Mr. FRASER. How is expertness acquired? How are we to know that a man is an expert? We cannot always tell by reputation. The hon. gentleman would be surprised to know that one of England's greatest historians, who has recently been appointed to the Oxford Chair of History,

Mr. WADE.