

3-4 GEORGE V., A. 1913

Q. That condition may not occur again.

A. I have given you the figures as to acreage and production and I am as certain as I stand here, that we will have the same situation arising in the future. The United States fruit growers are not going to have a less production than they have now, and they are always going, unless we prevent them, to dump their second grade stuff or surplus into our markets.

Q. Are you speaking of apples?

A. All varieties.

Q. But particularly apples?

A. Yes.

Q. What the United States growers call their Choice fruit is a good fruit?

A. I admit that. I am not suggesting for a moment that the fruit is not good. But it is not up to our Number One, and being shot into our market in the way it is, the United States growers are able to set the price.

Q. As their Choice fruit is individually wrapped it is slightly better than your British Columbia Number One's in many instances.

A. All our fruit is wrapped. I do not know any fruit, marked Number One, going out of the Okanagan Valley, that is not wrapped.

Q. Would that apply to previous years?

A. I think so. Of course when you come down to cookers and fruit like that you don't wrap them.

*By Mr. Schaffner:*

Q. Did you state how many boxes were grown in British Columbia last year?

A. I told you the figures for the Okanagan Valley.

Hon. Mr. BURRELL.—About 1,000 cars of fruit.

*By Mr. Schaffner:*

Q. How many boxes of apples?

A. About 450,000 boxes.

Mr. WINSLOW.—1,000 car-loads was our total fruit crop. About 755 cars were apples, or about 470,000 boxes.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. What percentage of the apple orchards would be giving a full crop now, would there be five per cent?

A. No, nothing like it. Speaking generally, not one half of them have begun to produce, and the average age of those producing is not nine years yet.

Q. What is your acreage of apple orchards in the province of British Columbia, that is, planted?

Mr. WINSLOW.—Pretty close on 30,000.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. What is the percentage bearing?

A. Not five per cent, say eight per cent is in partial bearing.

*By Mr. Schaffner:*

Q. I understand your trouble is that with the American apples coming in you are not getting a market for your own fruit. Now as far as Southern Manitoba is concerned, it appears to me there is absolutely no organized effort on the part of the British Columbia growers to ship their apples into that country. You may be shipping them into Winnipeg, but you are not shipping them into Southern Manitoba.

A. We are making use just now of the jobber, and I do not think that the jobber can ever be dispensed with economically. But when you say that we have no organ-