

FRUIT INTERESTS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND,

der and nubbins. A few of the most progressive fruit growers have passed the experimental stage of the business and practice thinning their growing fruit with as much certainty of profitable return as they do tillage or any other part of the business.

One large peach grower in New York showed me an orchard in which he had expended about \$80 in thinning in 1897, with an increase of over \$2,000. This

he knew from comparing it with another orchard which was not thinned. Another of the leading fruit-growers of New York has repeatedly stated in my hearing and written me that he has been experimenting for many years with some large trees of Esopus and since he began thinning and spraying he has not failed once to have a fair crop, and the apples have always been extra large, well colored and richly flavored.—

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In *Hansard* of April 26th, we read the following :

Mr. Martin asked :

Does the Government propose to initiate, as advocated by Professor Robertson, any scheme for experimental spraying of fruit trees?

If so, to what extent is it proposed to extend it this coming summer?

What sections are to be chosen for these experiments?

Is it proposed to extend them to all the provinces?

Is it intended that these experiments are to be made without any charge to orchardists?

If not, what charge is to be made?

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher). Professor Robertson has not advocated any scheme for spraying fruit trees; but it is proposed to co-operate with the provincial government of Prince Edward Island and the Prince Edward Island Fruit Growers' Association in preparing for some trial shipments of fruit by the spraying of fruit trees, and in the packing and shipping of apples in the season of 1899.

Mr. Martin is a member of parliament for Queens (East) Prince Edward Island, where recently, thanks to a well organized Fruit Growers' Association, the production of apples especially has received a wonderful impetus. Everybody now feels compelled to walk in the ways of the Association and hence the keen interest of the politician who scents the necessity of co-operation, in a matter of vital importance to his province, afar.

When Hon. Senator Ferguson resigned the presidency of the F. G. A. of P. E. I., owing to enforced absence from home at a season of the year when the president of such a live organization would need to be engaged in active work, he advised, in view of a resolution passed at the general meeting of the Association to inaugurate a service on top-grafting for the province, the placing of this whole matter of orchard advancement into the hands of Professor Robertson, Dairy Commissioner for Canada, of whose judgment and superior intelligence on all matters pertaining to Agriculture, nobody, at this late day, has the slightest doubt. Down in the island province Professor Robertson had taught them how to make cheese—had actually built the first cheese factory but a few years ago and now that fair province is, according to Governor Howlan's happy expression, "A million acre dairy farm." The whole island is dotted over with cheese and butter factories, and their numbers will go on increasing, for all the conditions for making the best possible cheese at the least possible expense obtain there. The people there admire Professor Robertson and trust in him implicitly. It was