

"Your committee is assured that the successful solution of the overseas marketing conditions of Canadian apples will result in a great expansion of the profitable export of other natural products of this Province, including pears, plums, grapes, cherries and tomatoes, all of which are capable of cultivation in profusion in this Province.

"The general result of the inquiries that have been made by your committee leads to the conviction that the general success of the agricultural life of this Province depends upon the satisfactory solution of the problems that are imperfectly presented in this report, and that a generous expenditure of public money is amply justified in seeking and working out the means whereby the advantages suggested shall accrue to the agricultural life of the Province. Your committee believes this question transcends in importance many others which engross public attention, and amply justifies favorable consideration on the part of the Government and the members of the Legislative Assembly."

The report goes extensively into the problem of packing and marketing apples, and touches upon the problem of marketing other natural products. A table shows that the export of apples to Great Britain from 1896 to 1921, inclusive, amounted to 30 million barrels, valued at a little over 86 millions of dollars. The report proceeds:

Huge Loss Is Shown.

"The value given in the table includes the cost f.o.b. Canadian shipping port, and, in some instances, the cost of transportation overseas. To arrive, therefore, at the amount received by the producers these several charges must be deducted. It is probably a liberal allowance to say that an average of \$1.50 per barrel represents the amount received during these years by the producers. This would represent about \$45,000,000 received by Canadian apple growers between 1896 and 1922 for this product that found a market overseas. If this enormous quantity had arrived overseas in good condition the British consumers would have paid, at the lowest possible calculation, the enormous sum of \$753,000,000 for these apples. This calculation is made upon actual prices that were paid for Canadian apples overseas in several years during this period."

Regarding the depreciation in quality of these apples the report says:

No Excuse for Loss.

"There is no reasonable excuse whatever why the contents of every

barrel should not have been in perfect marketable condition. That they were not so is due, beyond question, to the unpardonable neglect and indifference of all who were in any way connected with the apple interests. Not a little share of the blame must be assumed by the various Provincial and Federal Departments of Agriculture. During all these years highly paid officials have, apparently, been occupied with the export of Canadian perishable products. . . . And yet the fact remains that officialism has been unconcerned about this serious situation in regard to Canadian apples for fifty years, while other countries, with more perishable fruit, have taken practical and efficient steps to market their fruit with much more success and profit to domestic producers. . . . Your committee cannot avoid expressing surprise that, although three-quarters of a century has elapsed since the export of Canadian fruit became a subject for public or legislative inquiry, it has fallen to a committee of this Assembly to assume the responsibility of directing attention to the desirability of Government action, with a view to effecting changes in unfavorable marketing conditions that have been allowed to exist for much too long a period."

Pre-cooling Essential.

In a long introduction the committee's report refers to the importance of proper packing of apples and shows how necessary pre-cooling is to bring about that desirable end. For that reason the committee at one time, the report states, arrived at the conclusion that it was its duty

to recommend to the Government of the Province the advisability of erecting pre-cooling or cold-storage warehouses in different parts of the Province, in apple-growing centres.

Hesitation by the Government in launching such a large scheme of Government cold-storage caused the committee to approve the carrying out of an experiment along this line, and to this end the cold-storage warehouse at Brighton was started, and for the first six months of its existence it showed a surplus of \$434.

Outlines Right Method.

The report continues: "From what has been stated, it is plain that the carefully picked fruit, under the proposed new conditions, should be sent directly from the orchard in open holders, like tomato boxes, where the air can readily move among the apples, when placed in the pre-cooling room. Spring wagons, or motors, carefully driven, should be used, and hauling be done with the same care as picking. Arrived at the cold-storage, such boxes should be placed conveniently for cooling in a pre-cooling room, large enough to hold the picking of one day. The fruit brought in one day should be cooled during the next 24 hours, while that cooled yesterday is being packed in the pre-cooling room, whence it goes to the adjoining storeroom, and these kept cool by sufficient cold piping.

"Having thus done all possible to conserve the crop harvested, the owner, associated co-operatively with other fruit growers in the same local cold-storage, and with others in neighboring fruit centres, will be in a position to take advantage of the markets through what is obviously necessary—a shipping and selling association.

"Such, really, would have its starting point with the local orchardist, who, if he associates himself with others who have their representatives in the foreign or other distant market, will be independent of combinations in the degree that the fruit arrives perfect and sound."

The report goes on to say that there should be no difficulty in Canadian producers organizing to provide all the year round goods for profitable storage at Liverpool or Glasgow. Nothing is more certain, the report asserts, than that all the care of the orchardist in growing, etc., of his fruit will be practically lost if he is forced to sell his fruit at auction on arrival at Liverpool and Glasgow docks. In this connection the report has some criticism of conditions at Liverpool, where apples are sold by auction in the Liverpool Apple Exchange.

Hon. W. E. Raney Proposes Allowance for Retiring Shrievalty Officers

CLASHES WITH DEWART

After a sharp clash with H. H. Dewart, Southwest Toronto, and after the House had voted down Mr. Dewart's motion to report progress and have the Attorney-General's bill uniting the Sheriffs' offices in Toronto and York county held over, Hon. W. E. Raney acceded to the request of the Liberal member, and the bill stood over and will be reprinted.

Provide Retiring Allowance.

Mr. Raney introduced an amendment, which provides that where any Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff or official or employee is retired as the result of the uniting of these offices that he might be paid a retiring allowance not exceeding three-fifths of his average annual net income for five years preceding his retirement, such moneys to be a charge on the fees of the office. There was also a clause to the effect that these retiring allowances would be exempt from taxation, the same as the superannuation funds paid to teachers.