

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDIZATION

**J. ELIOT COIT,**

*Chairman*

The California Fruit and Vegetable Standardization Act, approved June 3, 1921; statutes 1921, chapter 719, page 1234, provides that walnuts, apricots, berries, cantaloupes, cherries, grapes, melons, oranges, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, quinces, onions, potatoes, sweet potatoes, and tomatoes when sold or offered for sale shall be mature but not overripe, well colored for the variety and locality, virtually uniform in quality, virtually free from insect, nematode, and fungous pests, rots, bruises, frost injury, sunburn, and other serious defects, etc., etc. The avocado is not mentioned in the text of this law.

At the May meeting of the Board of Directors of the California Avocado Association a resolution was unanimously adopted to the effect that whereas the industry had suffered by the ill-advised sale of immature windfall avocados, and whereas retail dealers often keep avocados exposed for sale when they are overripe and in some cases actually rotten; that it was the sense of the Board that the statute above quoted be amended to include the avocado in the list of other fruits. . The writer was appointed chairman of a committee which was instructed to attempt to secure the passage of the amendment by the legislature then nearing the close of its regular session. Everything possible was done during the few remaining days of the legislature to accomplish the desired end. Our efforts, however, resulted in failure for the reason that the State Commissioner of Agriculture referred the matter to the official in charge of the enforcement of the standardization act and it happened that he was just in the act of resigning his position and could give the matter little attention. The new appointee failed to make progress owing to the confusion and crush of business usually attending the closing days of a legislative session.

The committee recommends that in the interim before the next session of the legislature a more mature plan of campaign be perfected to the end that the desired amendment becomes a part of the standardization law at the next session of the legislature.