

CHASE & CO.

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA



March 11, 1925.

Chase & Company,
Orlando, Fla.

Gentlemen:-

Attention Mr. Mouser.

I am returning Mr. L. C. Edwards' letter addressed to you under date of March 9.

It looks to me as if Edwards and the Exchange are making their plans to pass the buck on their failure to obtain satisfactory prices on Florida grapefruit to the independents, if possible. He admits controlling fifty per cent of the grapefruit. After he reviews the activity the Exchange have been taking in advocating the planting of grapefruit for the past ten years he will realize that the Exchange and a few nurserymen are alone responsible for the present market condition on grapefruit.

The Exchange has never failed in their get together meetings to advise all growers to plant all the grapefruit they could, that the market could not be over-supplied, and if they could not sell for \$2.00 on the trees to ship them thru the Exchange, and they would get the value. The Exchange evidently does not want to shoulder the responsibility for having, for years, advocated in a reckless manner an increase in the grapefruit acreage. It strikes me as about time when exchanging letters with these people to touch them up on this point. These facts should be laid at the door of the Exchange in the same manner that Edwards wants to lay the blame of the present low prices received for grapefruit at the door, or doors, of the independent shippers. It would be a good scheme for the Exchange to turn loose and ship all the grapefruit they can, and as rapidly as they can, which may result in a reaction in price later on with some few people who do not want to engage in the grapefruit fight, but hold onto their goods and dispose of them later.

I am passing Mr. Edwards' letter on to J.C.C. as requested.

C. & Co.

#2

All cooperative organizations seem to think that they have the right of way over well established lines of business, and any independent who does not get out of their way should be ruined, and if he has enough backbone to stand up for his rights, he is then a public nuisance and an organization of night riders should be created to eliminate him from the business altogether. I have heard this advocated at meetings of the Citrus Exchange, one of which was held in Orlando some ten years ago when this man Woods, who is Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce in Leesburg, and hails from Kentucky, publicly recommended a body of night riders to force growers to become members of the Exchange, or eliminate them from the face of the earth. Doctor Ross, who was then a member of the Exchange, never protested against the sentiment expressed by Woods.

Yours very truly,

CC- Mr. J. C. Chase,
Jacksonville, Fla.

SOC:HMR