

Mr. PATTISON : With the grapes that were successful, was it a matter of varieties or of condition that they arrived in?

Prof. ROBERTSON : It was a question of the market they happened to strike. The grapes that were sent to Bristol were landed in first-class condition; there was no fault to find, but simply the people did not like the flavor and would not pay a price. Grapes from other countries were so low in price that they would not take any risks with the new thing.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS.

Pears. In the matter of pears, the first extract I have to mention is from a letter Oct. 18, by an agent of the Department in Great Britain, who writing about the California pears, says :

"Pears—(and these went by way of Montreal from California by our cool route)—sold from 7s. to 9s. 6d. per case of from 18 to 20 pounds of fruit; and plums sold from 6s. 6d. to 12s. per case of from 18 to 20 pounds of fruit. The fruit was all in fine condition, having been picked green; in fact some pears will not be ripe for some weeks, but they sell well for keeping stock.

Seven shillings to nine shillings and sixpence because they had keeping qualities; the keeping qualities are what they pay for in England in the meantime. That fruit was landed from the ship's cold storage at from 38 to 40 degrees. The next short extract I have in regard to pears is in a letter also from Mr. Grindley, of Oct. 22, in regard to the shipment of fruit in one of the steamships :

"I am glad to say it is turning out in regard to condition much better than the first three consignments. Pears very good, Peaches in very fair condition, some cases still too ripe. Tomatoes sound and still green."

Those were the tomatoes that two days after they were sold collapsed and would not keep after they came out of cold storage.

Then there is a letter of Oct. 4 from the firm of Elder, Dempster & Co., the steamship owners, and also the men who sold the fruit. They have developed an enormous trade for the distribution of fruit in England. They say :

"Pears have made what we consider a good return, and the shipments received since have been in better condition than the first, and we show considerably better results by these." Mr. C. W. VanDuzer's pears very fine, and should advise shipping large quantities to this market.

I happened to see two of these lots of pears that were selected,—about the size and shape and quality to throw on the open market. The next quotation I want to make is from Elder, Dempster & Co., speaking of pears again :

"Packing of pears satisfactory, but we should like them a little greener than they have been. Tomatoes absolutely useless, and we should prefer that this packer sent no more to this market."

Mr. McNEILL : May I enquire whether that Canadian packer had any experience locally in shipping tomatoes?

Prof. ROBERTSON : I suppose that this man had, because all seem to grow tomatoes and ship them to the local markets in Canada. We find that tomatoes will do very well carried in a ventilated space but do not seem to keep well in cold storage. The tomatoes that we put to the test in Ottawa seem to have gone in the same way. This is from Thomas Russell, a fruit merchant in Glasgow, to whom a shipment was sent :

"The pears sold well, especially as at the time of their arrival our market was in a manner glutted with French pears which were being sold very cheap."

I have this further to say before I leave the pear subject : That you will see from the reports even from the last observation, that the pears from Canada this year did not strike any special catch market. On three different occasions the report was, "The market is rather glutted and dull from large arrivals from the continent."

Mr. PATTISON : Can you tell us anything as to the varieties of pears?