

number of grapes, as one often does, then, after the first half-dozen, I like the Canadian better. (Hear, hear.) In Liverpool I went to the fruit market one Saturday night and bought grapes at 2s. a pound, and bought nearly as good grapes—except out of condition and off the stems—for 4c. a pound; 50c. and 4c. were the two prices. One was a little out of condition and the other was perfect. So I think if we keep on pumping at the British public with grapes they will get to like them by-and-bye and eat a great many of them.

Mr. A. H. PETTIT: In regard to grapes, don't you believe if we had a system of cold blast, gathered by pipes leading up with a funnel-shaped mouth to the wind, that would force the air through a cold chamber and drive out the aroma and moisture from the grape compartment, that our grapes would carry better than in a cold storage compartment absolutely closed? Here we have some grapes to-day on the table kept firm in a cool cellar where they have had plenty of air and exposed, not in cold storage at all. Now I believe those grapes are in better condition than had they been in cold storage. We want the moisture and the aroma of the grape that would collect carried away by some process, and if the air was forced through by cold blast I believe they would go in better condition.

Prof. ROBERTSON: I think the grapes are like the fall apples—they don't require cold storage but require ventilation. The grapes that we landed in England were in capital condition except twenty boxes, so it was not the condition but it was the inherent flavor they complained of, and that would be improved slightly by the means you have suggested. Let me say this, that some of the first grapes were sent over, they thought, without being ripened enough, and I have got a good deal of information from I think the best authority on grapes in the world—a man who sells 50,000 barrels a year—and he says that every kind of grape meant for England should be ripened until it is dead ripe before it is taken from the vine; that while you may pluck pears and such other things that will ripen on the way, grapes do nothing but deteriorate after they leave the vine, and therefore all the grapes should be thoroughly ripened, and they will cling to the stem longer when thoroughly ripened than if picked too early.

Mr. WHYTE: What varieties were sent in those shipments?

Mr. M. PETTIT: What varieties of Canadian grapes, if any, did the Englishmen speak favorably of?

Prof. ROBERTSON: They did not speak favorably, in that sense, of any. The reports all came back that they were not the kind of grape they liked; but they sent over the Concords and Niagaras, then afterwards the Vergennes and a large number of mixed varieties. There were several different varieties of Rogers, some of the Brightons, and some of the Agawams, and they complained of those that were mixed and said that they ought not to have been mixed. There was no difference in the price between the kinds that are called the best varieties here, like the Brighton, Vergennes and Rogers, and the prices we got from the Concords and Niagara.

Mr. A. H. PETTIT: I notice that many of the Concords brought as good prices as many of the others. One word about the "sleeping" apple that you were speaking about. I imagine where they take the first nap is in the orchards of this country, where they are put in large piles on the warm ground in cool nights, and there left for weeks. There is where you get the sleepy apple for the British market.

Mr. BURRELL: I hope no Champion grapes were shipped to England; but I would like to bear out as an Englishman, who spent about twenty-five years in England, the truth of Prof. Robertson's remarks about grapes, and I hope we can overcome it. As a matter of fact all of us who come out here do what those people did in the hotel—we spit them out; but after a while we become accustomed to them and can eat from ten to twelve pounds a day. (Laughter.) I believe we could overcome that if we persevere. Personally I like the Spanish grapes, and they can be bought so cheap that we can never get so big a price for our grapes as we can for our peaches and pears. I would like to ask about the market of Manchester, because I have always been under the impression that it was one of the best markets in England for fruit.

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