

ments of the consuming population there, and I don't think that we are doing right to expect to make a success of our exporting grapes until we can produce an article that they want. I have spent money in trying it. I was prejudiced in favor of our own grapes and wanted to see the trade developed. I didn't ask anyone or the Government to stand by me; I tried it in my own interests. I thought if we could only get them to use our grapes there was money in it; however, I didn't make a success of it. Pears are produced in France and some parts of Belgium and Germany equal to ours; they are close to the market, and except in years like this where the crop is a failure I hardly think that we can hope to open up a very large trade. In tomatoes the sources of supply are widening every year. You may think it is strange, but across from Liverpool, in Cheshire, they are producing as fine tomatoes possibly as we are producing in any part of Canada. I have seen them right there. I will not say that they will produce them every year as good. We do not produce as good tomatoes and peaches here every year. However, in the island of Jersey they are producing as fine tomatoes every year as can be grown under the sun, both in flavor and appearance, and they have been coming into England in large quantities and have sold heretofore as high as sixpence, eightpence and tenpence a pound readily. They are producing larger quantities because it pays them, and the price is receding every year. The tomatoes they are getting from Spain are not as good as those that we grow here, nor are they as good as those grown in France, but they are getting what they call an English seedling, which is a very bright red tomato, and the stem is green. I do not know the names of the different varieties of tomatoes, not being closely connected with the growth, but it is a smooth tomato and perfectly red, and in flavor equal to anything I have ever tasted. I do not want to throw a pail of cold water over any scheme we have for increasing our trade, but I do not think there is much use of spending money upon a business which is not likely to be lucrative. Of course I do not mean to say that you cannot produce grapes that will meet the demand there; I believe you will. I do not mean to say that all you intelligent fruit growers are going to sit down and say that you have accomplished what you have set out to do. I believe you will grow better fruit. I believe we will market and grade it in better shape, and I believe ultimately we may get better grapes there, and possibly will supply the market requirements there. In plums I don't know very much whether it would be possible to expect a large trade there. They are producing in Belgium and Germany large quantities of plums, and the peasantry, i.e., the small fruit farmers, are going more into it year after year. The same in Kent and Essex and Worcester, in England. They are producing larger quantities year after year, and the demand, which is increasing by leaps and bounds there in fruit, is being largely supplied by home production. I think they can grow very good plums there. I have seen just as good plums there as I have seen anywhere, that is where they are grown in the south in Essex and Kent and down through Worcester; they grow them to perfection, I think, there.

The SECRETARY: If they are a very low price here do you not think it might pay to send them over?

Mr. SHUTTLEWORTH: Most of our fruits of that kind are bought for preserving. I will give you an instance of the quantity of fruit that is put up by some of the large firms. We think nothing of selling forty and fifty and sixty tons at a time to Crosse & Blackwell. I have seen us when we have had sixty and eighty tons of plums—and I have sent the whole lot in one day to one man, W. H. Hartley, just outside of Liverpool. He has a capacity of putting up 112 tons of jam a day. He draws his supplies largely from the continent, that is for certain varieties, and the rest he gets in England. They are producing to meet that demand, and we think nothing of taking an order from him of possibly ten or fifteen thousand cases of Salonne oranges. He will bring in a ship to take care of them, and you can understand that they are not behind the times so much as we imagine. They are meeting this demand largely by home production; they are increasing the home products. Germany and the other countries finally, I believe, will be driven out of the British market in a measure, owing to these home productions. They are going into the lowering of freights, that is, discriminating freights. We have, and so have the continental countries, advantages granted by the railway companies of Great

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