

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS.

My conclusions so far as they can be stated with any satisfaction to myself with some sense of the responsibility under which I say them, is that Canadians may have a continuously growing trade in the exportation of pears; that a very large trade in the tender sorts of apples can be developed by shipping in cold storage; that there is a possibility of getting a trade that may leave a living profit from shipping tomatoes; that there is no likelihood of making a success of sending over Crawford peaches; and that as the demand for Canadian grapes does not exist, it is a question to be considered whether it would pay us to send about one car-load a week of our best sorts to further try to create a demand. Other tender fruits such as raspberries and currants and things of that kind could only, I think, be sent across profitably in the form of pulp; and that may or may not be profitable just as there is a scarcity or a large crop of these small fruits in Great Britain for the year. If the crop there is large the price goes so low that there would be no profit in sending them over from here.

The SECRETARY.—Why could not Crawford peaches be sent in pulp?

Prof. ROBERTSON.—The price of all fruit pulp, except raspberry pulp, is from £18 to £22 per ton. I doubt if they would take anything but raspberry pulp at first; and other things would have to create a demand for themselves. At £22 per ton, after taking off the costs of preparing, the cost of packages, of transportation and commissions I do not think there would be enough left for the fruit to induce our people to provide it.

Mr. GREGORY.—What is the charge per ton for transportation and for freight for grapes and pears?

Prof. ROBERTSON.—The freights from Grimsby to Montreal are 33 cents per hundred pounds. The freight on the ship is by measurement, usually from twenty to twenty-five shillings per forty cubic feet in cold storage. The total expenses for transportation this year come to 34 cents per case of about 28 pounds of fruit from Grimsby, Ont., to Bristol.

Mr. GREGORY.—Per case of 28 pounds?

Prof. ROBERTSON.—Yes; that was the whole expense,—transportation and dock dues and everything on the other side, excepting the item of commission, which was only three per cent on these shipments.

The PRESIDENT.—Now, I am sure that the time the Professor has taken up has been well spent indeed, and before we take up the next subject, which we might take up jointly with this, the privilege will be given of asking the Professor any question you wish to ask.

Mr. CASTON (Craighurst).—There is more profit in the growing of early apples than in any other crop if you can get a market for them. But they come in at a time when it is very hot. Does he find the tender variety of apples on the other side deteriorate very fast? That is what the commission men tell us; they are trying to discourage the shipment of apples in cold storage.

Prof. ROBERTSON.—The reports I have are that when apples are taken out of cold storage in warm weather, moisture forms on them and that causes them to deteriorate. Without cold storage they cannot be sent at all. A Montreal shipper shipped Duchess without cold storage and they were a complete loss.

The Rev. W. WYE SMITH.—Would the Professor tell us whether the Canadian manufacturers have any good prospects for canned fruits in the old country?

Prof. ROBERTSON.—I saw a good many samples of Canadian canned fruits in Britain. I spoke of them as favourably as I could at the Boards of Trade, when I met merchants; and I examined some cans in the hands of merchants there, who said they were pleased with them. I think that is a growing trade.