

PEARS.

The quantity of pears sent over was 2,208 cases. The cases were estimated to hold about one basket and a quarter, and they held from 26 to 28 pounds. I found one weighing 30 pounds of fruit, which was quite exceptional. Taking the prices at which the several lots were sold and averaging them these pears realized on the average 73.6 cents per case at Grimsby after the freight charges and all expenses were taken off. The shippers would realize 67 cents for that quantity of pears after allowing for the cost of the package. Now, I think, that is a very good price. I do not know whether your fruit-growers would be satisfied or not with that price for pears—(Voices, "Yes, yes")—but that was a fair price, and includes two shipments when the British market was said to be dull and glutted for pears. Now, all pears are not alike in the British market; the buyers won't pay the same price for all pears; and the net returns at Grimsby showed a much greater difference than the selling prices in Great Britain, because you have the very same freight charges, and the very same insurance and other charges to take off the low-priced pears in England as off the high-priced pears. The first shipment of pears that went over realized all the way from one dollar a case at Grimsby to forty-six (46) cents a case at Grimsby; that is, one portion of the same shipment fetched a dollar and the other portion forty-six (46) cents. I took the average of all the highest prices at which the pears in each shipment were sold, and then the average of all the lowest prices. In the second shipment they netted from sixty-three (63) to fifty-five (55) cents per case; and in the third shipment from ninety-six (96) to seventy-six (76) cents per case at Grimsby. The smaller sized pears fetched the lower prices I have mentioned. This year these pears were not creditable to Canada. I am not imputing any blame to the shippers at Grimsby beyond saying that the pears this year were small, and not creditable to Canada as showing what we can do usually. The weather was unfavourable during part of the season, even to the extent that some shippers were not able to send pears at all after the first shipment. If we could send forward the best quality of Bartlett pears we would have an enormous market I am sure, because the people like them so well that there is almost an unlimited demand under ordinary conditions at the prices I have mentioned. The very best prices that were gotten for any considerable quantity were six shillings and three pence (6s. 3d.) a case in England for these small cases. That would net at Grimsby one dollar and twelve cents (\$1.12) a case containing from 26 to 30 pounds. The difference in price between the varieties was hardly noticeable. In one case the Duchess fetched from four shillings and six pence (4s. 6d.) to four shillings (4s.), and in another case the Keiffers fetched from four shillings (4s.) to three shillings and six pence (3s. 6d.)

Mr. PATTISON.—The English market likes a large pear?

Prof. ROBERTSON.—Not a monster pear, but a large pear, or rather a large medium size.

Mr. BRODIE.—A pound each.

Prof. ROBERTSON.—No; about 70 pears to the case weighing 28 pounds were a fine size. They would weigh about three to the pound. Those would be pears of first-rate size.

PEACHES.

I want to deal next with the matter of peaches. We sent altogether 324 cases of peaches. For one small shipment we realized one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) a case net at Grimsby; and for a great many other shipments we realized