

reserves space for two carloads on every ship, and if any shipper that is shipping fruit like that will notify the Department long enough beforehand that he will have the fruit, that space can be reserved for him, but he must fill the space. You see, if a man applies for space and says he will send a whole carload every week, we will provide it; but then he has to send the carload or pay for the space. This is the position now, that if the fruit growers will make up any sort of statement as to how much space they do want, and how much they will send every week, I am authorized to say that we will provide that space for them.

Mr. FISHER: Why not permit an application to the manager of the company in Montreal, asking for space for 500 cases to go by the "Numidian" on Saturday?

Prof. ROBERTSON: For this reason, that if he had already engaged space for butter he had no space left to dispose of.

Mr. FISHER: But have not we just as good a right to that space so long as there is that space?

Mr. WESLEY SMITH: "First come, first served," I suppose, is the rule.

Prof. ROBERTSON: No, this is the rule—and I suppose it can be amended if need be. There was no demand for cold storage space till this year except for butter. Now if there is going to be a demand for cold storage for fruit of any large dimensions, and we know what it is, we can have it provided for; but there never has been till now any demand. I can say I do not think any of those shipments—at least any of those that went from Burlington—would have gone at all if I had not taken the law into my own hands. There was no application for space. If there is an application put in now, or in the spring before navigation opens, space will be provided.

Mr. FISHER: I think we will make application now. I had a conversation with Mr. Robert Harling, manager of the Elder, Dempster Co., and he told me that the money of the fruit-growers was just as useful to them as the money of the dairymen, and they would just as soon carry our fruit as the butter, and all we had to do was to make the arrangement with the Government to do so; and it seems to me that the Government have not a very good reason for making a distinction between butter and fruit. All we ask is an equal privilege.

Prof. ROBERTSON: Let me say, in all seriousness, apart from all banter, that just as soon as the fruit men apply for this space and take it, the Minister says he will apply for the space for the fruit on the same terms as butter; but until now there has been no application for fruit except the trial shipments the Government sent. I did not have any application for space for fruit last season until some Montreal men spoke to me, and I went and had the United States butter hauled out of one hold and had the fruit put in instead.

Mr. FISHER: I am much obliged to you. (Laughter.)

Prof. ROBERTSON: If you apply for any space for fruit it will be provided. The Government of no country is as good as Providence—it does not usually give things until it is asked for them.

Mr. FISHER: I have just returned from Montreal and from going through some of those vessels, and although I thought I had a pretty competent attendant in the first officer of the ship, and that I gave the best attention, I failed to learn how they took the temperature of the cold storage apartments on the vessel.

Prof. ROBERTSON: In each chamber there is an opening in the deck, and down that is a two-inch pipe, thoroughly closed. That goes down two-thirds of the way into the hold, and the thermometer is put down in that pipe and is pulled up and read four times a day. The engineers have given me the reports taken four times a day like that.

Mr. McNEILL: I would like to ask what your opinion is between the relative merits of the two grapes for popular use, Canadian or foreign?

Mr. ROBERTSON: For my own eating, for just a few grapes, I like the French and the Spanish grapes better; but in the hot weather of summer, if I want to eat a large