

Now, Mr. Chairman, I have come to the end of the extracts and also to the end of my remarks, except these few things I have to say in conclusion. I think the prospect for a profitable trade in the exportation of Canadian pears is very good. We have the conditions for producing abundantly this class of fruit which the British public are both able and willing to pay good prices for.

A DELEGATE.—How would quinces be?

Prof. ROBERTSON.—So far we find them sometimes being sold well and sometimes being given away.

Mr. PATTISON.—Is there any prospect of putting plums on that market in good shape?

Prof. ROBERTSON.—I think little prospect of making them pay well, because of the suitability of their own climate for growing them in most years. I think we might have a "Snap Market" occasionally.

A DELEGATE.—What is the method of cold storage on the ships?

Prof. ROBERTSON.—Mechanical refrigeration by the use of ammonia to a temperature of 36° to 40° Fahr.

Prof. MILLS.—Do California apples, tomatoes, plums and peaches reach there in good shape?

Prof. ROBERTSON.—Their main trade has been in pears, and they were at it four or five years before they made a success of it. This year they have added peaches. They had failures for two years; the shippers were said to have lost \$200,000 in one year. After they had learned to pack and carry pears successfully, they have gone into the peach business and apparently are making a success of that.

Dr. MILLS.—Have they done anything with tomatoes and grapes?

Prof. ROBERTSON.—I think not with tomatoes. They have with grapes; their grapes have thick skins and tough flesh.

Prof. ROBERTSON.—As far as I could learn on the spot from talking with merchants, the English grown plum is usually sufficient for their own needs at fair prices, and we have not any chance of getting a demand for our plums at a profit.

With regard to peaches it does not seem to me that we can expect a profitable trade in exporting peaches from Canada to Britain by means of cold storage; nor can we expect a profitable trade at all in sending over Crawford peaches from Canada to England. The fruit is so tender that unless picked at a particular hour of the day when its development is just right there would be a risk of loss so great that no commercial man would take up the venture on a large scale.

With regard to tomatoes the position is still doubtful; but the increased production in the south of England, and the Canary Islands is putting the price down so low that, counting our extra expense and our extra risk, I am not hopeful we will have a trade in tomatoes. Even if they could be carried safely, it is doubtful if we could make it pay as against these other competitors.

I do not think we need look for a trade of large volume in grapes.

A DELEGATE.—Could you give us the month in which the peaches were shipped?

Prof. ROBERTSON.—I think the first shipment of fruit went out on the 7th September.

A DELEGATE.—Do you know if any Smart peaches were shipped?

The SECRETARY.—There were a few.

Prof. ROBERTSON.—Through Mr. Woolverton's own enterprise 30 cases of grapes were sent to one firm of jam makers, and they reported that they were entirely useless for their purposes.