

SHALL WE CONTINUE TO PLANT VINEYARDS?



AM by no means sure that the continued heavy planting of the grape will prove to be a safe commercial venture. It is, doubtless, true that the consumption of this fruit in a fresh condition is increasing at a rapid rate, and it may reasonably be anticipated that such consumption will continue to increase. On the other hand, public sentiment grows stronger and stronger against wine-making, and this seems likely to diminish the demand for grapes for such purposes.

The grape can be, and is, successfully and profitably grown much farther north than any of the tree-fruits, since by laying down and covering the vines they can be carried safely through the severest winter cold. With judicious selection of a vineyard site, many of even the late-ripening varieties mature with nearly or quite the same certainty as farther south. As a case in point, a fine collection of well-ripened grapes, grown in southern-central Minnesota, was shown at the New Orleans Exposition during the winter of 1875. Among them were perfectly ripe Catawbas which, even in southern Michigan and northern Ohio, ripen thoroughly only in exceptionally favorable seasons or in protected or sheltered localities. A subsequent visit to the vineyard in which these specimens were grown revealed the fact that their maturity was due to the training of the vines upon a low trellis with a southern slope and exposure. The vines were covered with earth in winter.—T. T. LYON.

Just so long as bananas are sold in our northern towns by the wagon and car-load we say, plant grapes. The capacity of our people to consume grapes is only just beginning to be tested. What we want is to improve their quality, to cheapen and quicken transportation and to extend the season. Every northern market should be supplied with fine grapes from June until January, and in abundance. Our people have only been eating grapes for two months; they ought to be supplied for six.

Fruit-growers need to tone up on honesty. They should put up honest goods in first-class order, stop growling at commission-men, and improve the quality of their fruit. Have a perfect understanding with your commission-house. Let the house know what you have, and just when it will be shipped. Make daily reports, use the telegraph, get acquainted with a trustworthy firm, and stick to it. It is possible to have good, faithful, conscientious producers and shippers at one end of the route, and good, prompt, honest dealers at the other end; but there must be mutual and continual understanding and co-operation.—S. S. CRISSEY, Chautauqua Co., N. Y.

Modest bearing is very commendable in a man, but it is no recommendation to a fruit tree.—*Lowell Courier*.

Father: "No appetite this evening, eh? What is the matter? Late unch?" Little Boy: "No, sir; early apples."—*Good News*.