

friends whom I have over there. The people all want Canadian apples when they get them fine, and when they get poor apples they simply give the country a bad name. Now the slacks that have come back reported in such large quantities have not been due to the packer's dishonesty, as the Englishman says, and they have not been due to the Englishman's trickery, as the packer says, but have been due to the conditions between these two men having been wrong and apples getting spoiled on the way. (Hear, hear.) I want to say also in regard to the sending of even later variety of apples in cold storage as against those that were sent in the ordinary holds of the ship. From one of those lots I have not yet the report, but from one lot that was sent from Grimsby we have a report to this extent, that all the apples in cold storage were sound and firm, and most of the apples not in cold storage, while sound, on careful examination showed the beginnings of decay and of the spots in under the skin. While they sold well, a careful examination by an expert showed the beginnings of decay there, while the others were found sound and solid throughout. That means that we must have the cold storage for the early apples and ventilated chambers for all the rest of the apples. Then our apple trade will be on a good basis; but the shippers must ventilate the barrels and allow the warm air that generates in the barrel itself to escape both in the hold and before they go there. I have only a few things to say about pears in regard to packages. I think a package about this size (showing sample) is best for pears, and they should not be put in trays, but should be packed solid in the case wrapped in paper. The Californians use a case something like this, and then they put a cover on to keep the fruit solid and firm when moving, and then all the cases are packed on their edge in the ship, so that there is no possibility of squeezing the fruit by the pressure coming and crushing the sides, and then there are cleats nailed between each row, so that there is a circulation all around each row and between each layer. That means that it takes just about 5,000 cases to fill a 6,000 space in the hold, filled with the spaces all round, and by that means they could land the fruit in the best condition. I think a small package like this for Bartletts would be the best for us, with a centre piece, and then have the fruit packed in that way—(on the edge)—and have this side put on with a cleat. This small case is better for perishable fruit like Crawfords. The reason I advocate packing from the sides is because it is much easier to pack solid in a narrow space than you can pack in a large space. That will give you a better carrying package, and the same for nearly every kind of peach excepting the Crawford, and I think even the Crawford peach put in solid and cooled would carry best like that, with no trays at all between 2 and 2½ layers of peaches. The Glasgow people complain of those peaches being in layers—that the see-saw motion of the ship had bruised the surface of the peaches a little bit even when they were covered with paper; so I think we should try as far as possible to get small packages that would carry the fruit safely without any drawers or trays in between; and where one does use trays for such things as grapes, and perhaps even for tomatoes, those cheaper packages, let the trays be all wood and not of pasteboard. The last report I got two days ago complained that even in the cold weather the pasteboard trays, when the weather was quite cold, landed with the pears slightly molded from the paper becoming moldy in the damp; and every report I have had from England and Scotland this would be an eminently suitable package to carry the firmer kinds of peaches and tomatoes, and then that larger package for carrying apples and the firmer sorts of pears. These packages will cost very much less per case than ones that are filled with trays inside. In regard to pears, it is very important that the pears should be of a uniformly large size—a few small pears lessen the value very much; and then that the pears should be of uniform regular shape. Incorrect or misshaped fruit lessens the value very much. I have nothing more to say about peaches, and I would rather say what I have to say about tomatoes in any discussion that may take place; and I have only to apologize for the unconscionably long time taken in saying what I had to say; and if after I am through speaking any of you would like more direct definite information in regard to any part, I have got nearly all these letters by memory, and as well as I can I will give you the exact facts in regard to the Englishman's opinion of the fruits we have sent. Before I do that let me repeat what the Minister authorized me to say on his behalf here and on behalf of the Department