

Mr. DEMPSEY.—I had in my charge a few baskets of grapes when I went across that were packed in baskets, probably fifteen pounds to the basket. Every one of those baskets arrived in perfect order. They arrived just as nice as some of your grapes I saw when I arrived in Toronto. With respect to your Spanish grapes, I saw in Glasgow sold some hundreds of barrels of them, and they were sold for less than our apples were bringing; they were sold at auction. I fancy that those Spanish grapes can be laid down in England for less money than our grapes; but our grapes, to my taste, are much superior to those. Then there seems to be no difficulty in shipping them any distance, that is, the Spanish grapes; you are all aware what they are and how they will stand shipment. I think some of them, as I saw them there, could be almost counted as safe to walk over and not crush them. (Laughter.) They were very firm and solid—almost unfit to eat. I bought them in London one day; I bought a bunch, particularly I remember, for threepence, that weighed a pound and a half; so that they are sold from some fruit stands in London very cheap indeed. They were not these white grapes such as we see generally of the Spanish grapes, but they were a pink color, much superior to the white. I have seen there some of those grapes peddled or hawked—they call it there—around the streets by boys, in baskets. I have seen them sold for threepence a bunch, fourpence a bunch, and so on. Those bunches all go over a pound, or fully a pound. I am a little suspicious about our grape shipments ever being satisfactory, to England; notwithstanding, I am satisfied that we can lay them down in Glasgow nearly as perfect, if we can obtain cold storage, as we convey them here; but we must have a basket with a handle to it. They will always pick them up with a handle; but if they are in a box, I don't care what you mark on the box, or if you stand right by and say, "There is precious fruit there I don't want destroyed," they are just as sure to drop it upside down when they set it down after carrying it on board ship, or off ship, or anywhere else—just as sure to drop it upside down as they have it in their hand. That seems to be their nature. (Laughter.) I don't know where they get it from.

Mr. MORDEN.—The question I wished to start was this, is there not some method of keeping grapes till Christmas without the sawdust. It seems to me it can be done after weather-curing for some days, that they might be packed, perhaps, in leaves—in dry, autumn leaves, surrounded with paper—or in a paper bag, and perhaps that paper bag within a basket, and the basket hung in a cool, airy place, and when cold in the fruit house a little stove could be used; and those grapes, put upon our own Christmas market, would prove profitable. It seems to me that this is a little problem that could be solved, and that the grapes could be preserved from now until Christmas, cheaply, without the use of sawdust. I have seen a neighbour of mine shipping grapes at Christmas. I am not aware of his methods, but I think he did not adopt the sawdust plan. I predict we will see a good deal of fruit shipping at Christmas within a few years. I think it can be done, but I have no experience.

A MEMBER.—Can you find a market?

Mr. MORDEN.—I should say so.

The PRESIDENT.—As we have only a few minutes to spare we must close the discussion. The Secretary has a couple of questions here and will read them.

THE PEACH-BORER.

Q.—When is the best time to hunt the peach-borer, and how many times a year? How old is the tree before the borer ceases to molest it? Also, is it injurious to a peach orchard to plough it the latter part of this month (September) or the first of next?

The PRESIDENT.—I think the Secretary can answer that.

The SECRETARY.—I can give my own practice with regard to this peach-borer. The worm develops into a moth during the summer months, in June, July, and August; and, in order to prevent his escape and his doing mischief to other trees, it is necessary that he should be destroyed early in the season; and, therefore, I usually go over my peach trees in May or early in June to take them out and destroy them, and then I have them

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