

The next quotation on that matter is in a letter from Elder, Dempster & Co., 4th of October. They say:

"Peaches.—We would advise you to stop shipments of these as they will cost senders more money than they will realize. Your Mr. Grindley has seen these goods, and we understand he is advising you to stop shipment of them."

Then on 24th October, the same firm writes:

"Peaches realized much better prices than we anticipated, but since selling these by auction we have received numerous complaints with inquiries for money to be returned. They arrived here in a condition which we are unable to put into words, namely, dry, they being absolutely useless for dessert fruit. We would advise this packer not to ship any more of these in cold storage, and if you can pack in smaller packages containing about two dozen peaches wrapped in wool, and picked green so that they can ripen on the voyage we are sure we should make a good market here."

That would seem to indicate that they would like trial shipments not in cold storage, but in a ventilated space. The peaches I put in cold storage kept all right, but those that were put in green became dry and almost quite tasteless. The difficulty is to get the peaches just at the right condition of ripeness for shipment.

Then there is a remark about plums:

"Plums were in a very bad condition, they being picked when a little too ripe. Apples in good condition, the packages are too small to pay for voyage."

Grapes.

The quotations I have next are about grapes.

From Mr. Grindley, Oct. 7th:

"I have cabled and written to you several times regarding the unsatisfactory condition in which the peaches and tomatoes are reaching here, and should advise the stoppage altogether of consignments of both peaches and tomatoes, and I might also add grapes, for although they arrive in fair condition there is no demand for them owing to the flavour."

Then on October 18th:

"I noticed in Bristol one large fruit dealer was selling our grapes (card in window) as 'Choice California.' They told me nobody wanted 'Canadian grapes,' but they sold some as Californians."

I am giving you the facts without being able to account for all the mysteries of English commerce and of the English palate.

Mr. GREGORY.—What were the varieties of grapes shipped?

Prof. ROBERTSON.—Mostly Rogers Red, Rogers Black, Lindley and Niagara, and I think only a few Concord. I think the bulk of them were Rogers Red and Rogers Black. I think the grapes this year were representative of the best grapes in the Niagara Peninsula at the time the shipments were made.

Mr. GREGORY.—Have you a statement of what the grapes sold for per pound?

Prof. ROBERTSON.—Most of them fetched no price at all; they were nearly all given away. The four shipments from Mr. Linus Woolverton illustrate the rest. In the first shipment of grapes there were sent ten cases which netted twenty-three (23.9) cents a case at Grimsby; that would be about sixty (60) cents over there. The next netted 19¼ cents at Grimsby; the next lot were a complete loss; and also the fourth a complete loss, leaving the freight and other expenses to be paid on the last two shipments in addition to the loss of the fruit and the packages.