

this year did not strike any special catch market. On three different occasions the report was: "The market is rather glutted and dull from large arrivals from the continent."

Mr. PATTISON.—Can you tell us anything as to the varieties of pears?

Prof. ROBERTSON.—They do not give us any statements of preference for any particular variety. The reports are for soundness, keeping quality and appearance, and then for variety for flavour after that.

A DELEGATE.—Do you know the variety Mr. VanDuzer sent?

Mr. ROBERTSON.—Yes; he sent some Bartletts and some Keiffers.

A DELEGATE.—Do you know if there were any Keiffers sent?

Prof. ROBERTSON.—Yes, in the last shipment, and they were sold at from four shillings to three shillings and sixpence per case; that would bring from 59 to 47 cents net at Grimsby, and that was at the time when the price was lowest in England.

Mr. GREGORY.—That would be of 28 pounds per case?

Prof. ROBERTSON.—About that.

Mr. SMITH.—Are we to understand that there is no preference for any variety of pear?

Prof. ROBERTSON.—The Keiffers were sold for within twelve cents a case as much as the Duchess. So far as our testing of the English market goes, the price paid is according to the soundness, the keeping quality, and the appearance, and then the flavour is considered. California pears were sold at much higher prices than even our Bartletts, because they had keeping qualities. Of course the flavour and other eating qualities must be fair.

The SECRETARY.—Last year one shipper who received a case of pears in Great Britain said that he did not care to buy a second box.

Mr. BRODIE.—Do they use that Keiffer pear for table decoration or for use? (Laughter.)

Prof. ROBERTSON.—I am unable to say. Some kinds may be used for table decoration, but that is not the kind that should be sent. While soundness and keeping qualities and appearance are things wanted now, in the course of a few years they will begin to discriminate; and if we have given them good pears with fair keeping qualities all along we will have the first place in the market. In the meantime their money is paid only for the fruit having soundness and keeping qualities; so let us get our fruit there in that condition and of the best flavour and flesh we can. We will then have the preference in the market in the long run when the keener competition comes.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS—Continued.

Peaches.

The following are a few extracts from letters in regard to peaches:—

"Peaches turned out six over ripe in eleven cases, and 40 cases are now in Elder, Dempster & Co.'s back-yard completely rotten."

These went in cold storage at from 36 to 38 degrees. The second says:

"Peaches already shipped have the appearance of having been chilled, besides on being exposed to warm temperature they gather moisture which hastens decay—some of the paper wrapping being quite wet."

That is, from being very cold, moisture from the English atmosphere was condensed on them, and that hastened their decay.