

to eat apples, and they are beginning in downright earnest now. I consider that our trade with that country is merely in its infancy; the trade is going to be something enormous in a few years, because they are very fond of good things in that old country. They are some time making up their minds to go into anything; but when they go in they do it in British downright earnest. I believe there is destined to be a good market for our grapes. The question is to be looked into as to the method of shipping; to see if there is any way at all—through the Government or in any other way—of tying down those officials on the railways and steamship companies, compelling them to handle our packages in better shape, and not to fling and toss them about the way they do. I observed they always seemed to handle any article that has a handle to it—anything in the shape of a basket—much better than they will anything like a square box or a round parcel that has no particular hold to take up with the hand; but those packages of that description, they certainly fling them about in any and every shape; and our grapes that we shipped to the Colonial Exhibition certainly sustained more damage just by the bad handling than any other way. I am satisfied they can all be shipped, or the most of our varieties can be shipped, thoroughly well to the old country; they can be shipped in splendid order there if they handle them in a half christian-like way. Another point I was satisfied of over there was this, that only for the wisdom—if it can be called wisdom—of our legislators in framing the Scott Act and practically shutting off the manufacture of wine from the grape, as well as cider from the apple, that a number of manufacturers from that country would be perfectly willing to come to this country and go into the manufacture of wine from our grapes on a large scale. They enquired there regarding our laws particularly. At the Colonial Exhibition we had a number of enquiries on that very question from parties there—manufacturers who got some of our grapes—in fact they were refuse grapes that were unfit for the table that were handed over to them; and they made some tests with them, and at the same time made some tests with some refuse apples we had. I did not hear at the time we came away—although they promised to give us the test on the grapes—I did not hear what the result of the test on the grapes was. I saw some gentlemen at the time, and they said they had great hopes of the test; they thought they would be able to make a very fine quality of wine. The result from the apples they did give me, and the statement was this, that taking the juice of our apples and adding twenty per cent. of water, they had a better article to make cider out of than the pure juice of their own home-grown apples. So much for the cider and the juice of our apples. I believe the grape-growers ought to pursue this question of a market for our grapes, and it is time to pursue it now. I believe it would pay to follow up that British market, and begin at Glasgow. There was a gentleman at the meeting at Colingwood that spoke there about our grapes, and he is a broker in Glasgow, a very responsible man, I think, from all I have seen or known of him for the last two years, and he would like to handle our grapes to a small extent. Of course it is a trade that must be handled carefully, because people must acquire that taste for our grapes first. Those who do eat grapes there are accustomed only to hot-house grapes or the poor white Spanish grape, which is a very poor affair compared with many of our varieties; and I think there will be no difficulty in introducing our grapes if gone about in the right way and gone about carefully. I think it is going to be one of the most important markets that we can ship to.

Mr. ORR.—What can the Spanish grape be laid down there for?

The PRESIDENT.—They sell them for about tenpence a pound—sixpence to tenpence a pound. They come there sometimes damaged greatly. Well, you know, we could lay our grapes in there much lower than that.

A. H. PETTIT.—I think you will find no one in this room who will undertake the shipment of Niagara grapes to the old country; but I think the suggestion you threw out last night could be acted upon, in reference to transportation. It is very difficult for shippers to deal with those large transportation companies, and if the case were properly handled there would be any quantity of grapes sent forward this year; and it is not too late to do it yet. Now I would suggest that the only body in this country who can successfully do it should do it—the representatives of the fruit-growers of Ontario; and

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