

Mr. FISHER: I never put it that way, but these pears that went to the Old Country were just as ripe as they could be, but they were not soft, and I was very much surprised myself at the report which came from Liverpool regarding those pears; and there were a number of pears just ripe enough to get soft, but they were not soft. The Burlington people in their operations this year have been trying all such features of the work, and endeavoring to get all the information they can. We have not aimed at making money, but what we were after was to get the fruit there in good shape and find out what we could do.

The SECRETARY: Do you think your case is sufficiently ventilated? The case we are proposing to use is much more ventilated than that.

Mr. FISHER: We have not used any other case, and I have given you the results of using this case. It may be that a more ventilated case would be better, but we think that that case is sufficiently ventilated. When we fill our case the fruit stands about three-quarters of an inch above the edge. We have a frame in which we place an ordinary screw press. When the box is full we just shove it into this frame; we place the cover on it just as you see it here, and then we have a little frame made of pieces of wood that sits across the top, and two slats, and these right across the cover; then we bring down the screw and press this home, which opens up the spaces at the sides more than you see them open now, and they remain so. It is ventilated at the top, bottom and side. The Toronto people say they do not want a ventilated case, they would just as soon have a tight barrel as an open barrel; they say they have just as good results. They say the Chicago people have taught them that. I don't know from experience which is best.

Prof. ROBERTSON: Do you use the same case for tomatoes?

Mr. FISHER: For shipping tomatoes we get some little baskets made like they use in the twenty-four quart berry case, only they are as long as the box is wide, and so wide that three of them would reach the length of the box. We put these in, fill them with tomatoes, and then put a slat on the top. They were as deep as one-half of the box, and then we put a row of these baskets on the top and put on the covers. Now about the one-piece sides. A great many cases they made for me were two-piece sides, although the contract was for one. When they come to make them up they said they hadn't the material, and we allowed them the privilege of using two-piece sides, which we consider was not at all to our advantage, on the consideration that they would use this iron (showing two narrow strips of hoop iron about nine inches long and one inch wide). Now this is an idea of my own which the Coleman Lumber Co. give me great credit for. They say they intend to use it on their boxes right along. In shipping the old apple box to the Old Country, a number of my friends at Burlington said they could not sleep after a shipment went away unless the boxes were banded—they were afraid they would go to pieces in handling, and consequently a good many of them were banded; and when they got to the Old Country the consignees in Glasgow complained fearfully of the bands—they said they could not sell them because they went right into private families, and the people could not get the boxes open. (Laughter.) They said the ordinary family had no better kit of tools than a poker and a pair of tongs, and they could not do anything with the boxes. (Laughter.) In order to do that we set ourselves to strengthen the boxes without putting the band on the outside, and when we consented to take the two piece sides, the maker of these boxes consented to put that piece of steel across the end before they nailed the sides on. It goes inside the covers. The nails go through it, and these two pieces of steel will carry pretty nearly a ton. The box is practically indestructible with that band in there.

A DELEGATE: You say you prefer a four-fifths box to a bushel box at the same price. Why do you prefer that size to a bushel?

Mr. FISHER: I don't know that I do. When we shipped that box to the Old Country first, they sent us a message from Liverpool on no account to change that box—that we were shipping the finest package that came to Liverpool. You can stow that box on the top or sides or endways, or any way you like, and it will fit. The vessel people