

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 or flavor after that.

A DELEGATE : Do you know if there were any Kieffers sent ?

Prof. ROBERTSON : Yes, in the last shipment, and they were sold at from 4s. to 3s. 6d. per case of about 28 pounds ; that would bring from 59 to 47 cents nett at Grimsby, and that was at the time when the price was lowest in England.

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

Prof. ROBERTSON : The Kieffers 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 flavor is considered. California pears were sold at much higher prices than even our Bartlett's, because they had keeping qualities. The flavor and other eating qualities must be fair.

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

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

Prof. ROBERTSON : I am unable to say that. Some kinds must 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 flavor and flesh we can. We will then have the preference in the market in the long run when the keener competition comes.

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 wrappings being quite wet."

That is, from being very cold, moisture from the English atmosphere was condensed on them ; and that hastened their decay. The next quotation on that matter is in a letter from Elder, Dempster & Co., of 4th 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 shipments of them."

Then on October 24 the same firm writes :

"Peaches realized much better prices than we anticipated, but since selling these by auction we have received numerous complaints with enquiries 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 should 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 you should make a good market here."

That would seem to indicate that they would like trial shipments, not in cold storage but in ventilated space. The peaches I put in cold storage kept all right, but those that we 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.

Plums. Then there is a remark about Plums :

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

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