

Prof. ROBERTSON : We had no opportunity of getting to Manchester because we had no cold storage ships going there. I offered to the Army and Navy store to get the grapes into the homes of the working people for next to nothing, but they would not take them even on those terms.

Mr. M. PETTIT : I think it will take us much longer to cultivate the taste of the Englishmen by sending Concord and Niagara than it would if we sent Delaware, Lindley, Agawam and Catawba. Those grapes, I am certain, would take in that market much more than the varieties which have been largely sent.

Prof. ROBERTSON : I think some of those were sent, except perhaps the Catawba, which I do not remember.

Mr. McNEILL : I take exception to that. We have here a different condition in the matter of grapes than we have in any other fruit. Any other fruit we can gather the Englishman has always been used to, only perhaps a little better than he ever got before ; but in this matter of grapes we are introducing an entirely new article. Our grapes differ entirely from the foreign grapes they have been used to, and consequently the problem is an entirely different one. Look at the conditions here in our own country. In the first place I maintain we have not the quality of Delaware ; we can never grow the quantity of Delaware that will ever make them a merchantable article in this country. The prices are not remunerative enough, and never will be, to grow them largely here ; but we have an unlimited country for Concords and grapes of that kind. We are growing them now in unlimited quantities, and we can increase the demand one hundred fold in the matter of Concord grapes ; and I maintain that the popular taste after all is for the Concord grape as against any other variety that is now grown. It is very true that, because there are not many Delawares grown because there is no great profit in growing them except in special cases, the price may be a little higher per pound, but the public demand the Concord grape and they get it, and they will eat twenty pounds of them where they eat one pound of any other variety. Now what we want to do is to put the Concord grape upon the English market, for we can grow quantities of it without limit. We have thousands of acres in Essex county that could be successfully devoted to the culture of Concord grapes. As far as grapes are concerned we simply want to force this new article on the British market. We call it grapes and it is grapes, of course, but it is an entirely new thing to put on the English market, and we ought to put it there upon its merits and take the same course with it as we took with our Canadian cheese, that is put it on year after year, and I have no doubt it will take the same course there as it has with ourselves and become the most popular grape on the market. It was my good fortune to have Thanksgiving dinner in Detroit, and the California grapes were there in a heap nicely rounded up. My contribution to the dinner was a couple of baskets of our ordinary grapes. Well, it was rather humorous to see the way they would nibble at a single berry of those luscious looking California white grapes that were exceedingly ornamental ; but just to see the way that the ordinary Canadian grape went was a caution. They would take one berry of the California grape, but they would take a whole bunch, and sometimes two or three, of the Canadian grapes—and they all went. (Hear, hear.) Now my experience of the English first-class table, I must confess, is somewhat limited, but I have had an opportunity of seeing something of a first-class English table, and what surprised me was the little grape scissors at the base of this pyramid of fruit that was there, and I didn't venture on anything till I saw one lady take a single berry, cut it off and eat it. I made bold afterwards to enquire just what were the habits of the English people with regard to eating grapes—I had been in the habit of eating from five to twelve pounds—(laughter)—and I was rather discouraged on this matter of having to take only a single berry. Well, my friend told me he was acquainted with the habits of the best English tables, and he said that any man that would take more than three berries would be considered a hog. (Laughter.)

Mr. BURRELL : But it was a hoggish price ; it was about 15s. a pound those grapes were. (Laughter.)

Mr. McNEILL : What we want is to put this Concord grape on the English market on its merits, force it on that market ; we can do it, and there is not the slightest doubt