

REPORT OF THE GRAPE EXPORT COMMITTEE.

1. In attempting to formulate recommendations for the better preparation and marketing of table grapes, the Grape Export Committee was able at the outset to profit by the labours of the Orange Export Committee, and accordingly decided to follow, as far as might be applicable, the general lines of that Committee's report.

2. In pursuance of this decision, the Committee conducted its deliberations under four main headings, which in their final form may be described as follows:-

- I. The Vineyard, i.e. vine-growing.
- II. The Grape, i.e. picking, packing etc.
- III. Transport.
- IV. Marketing.

I. The Vineyard.

3. The first question to be answered was whether it was worth while to encourage the growing of table grapes at all. The answer could obviously not be given till the work of the Committee was completed, but it is convenient to record it in its logical place. The Committee was of opinion that the country has been suffering from over-production of grapes, but that, as soon as the grape industry is properly organized, this danger will disappear. Until such organization is complete, however, the Committee does not feel justified in recommending increased cultivation of the vine.

4. Given that viticulture is worth while, the question next arises what varieties of grape should be planted with a view to export. The Committee is of opinion that the requirements of a bunch of grapes for the London market are as follows:-