

The Committee is definitely of the opinion, however, that further experiments must be made both with these and other varieties before any conclusions can be established, and strongly recommends that such experiments be undertaken by the Government.

6. The Committee was of opinion that a consideration of the general problems of viticulture lay outside its Terms of Reference, and therefore limited its discussion on this subject to the two points that closely affected marketing, viz. the varieties and the quantities of grapes that should be grown.

II. The Grape.

7. The Committee therefore turned its attention to the grape when grown, and adopted the recommendations of the Department of Agriculture as published in their Leaflet (No. 8) on the export of grapes, subject to any modifications recorded below.

8. The first question to be considered was the stage of maturity at which the grape should be picked. Grapes, unlike certain other fruits, do not continue to ripen after they are picked. The accepted test of ripeness is the proportion of sugar. The Committee understands that countries with a large grape export prohibit the export of grapes with a proportion of less than 17⁰/₀, or for certain varieties 16⁰/₀, of sugar. In view of this established practice the Committee recommends that no grapes should be exported from Palestine unless they contain 16⁰/₀ of sugar (equivalent to 16 degrees Balling or 8.8 degrees Beaume), and that the Fruit Inspection Service should undertake the necessary supervision. If necessary, this figure could be modified later in the light of experience. The Empire Marketing Board, in its report on the trial consignment referred to above, suggested that, if the grapes had been picked a little earlier, they would have arrived in better condition. The Committee is of opinion, however, that there were too many other factors affecting the condition in which the grapes arrived to justify, without further experience, a modification of the recommendation given.

9. Considerable discussion took place with regard to packing cases. One Member of the Committee favoured a