**Tucker’s Fruit Carrying Experiments**

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FRUIT CARRYING EXPERIMENTS.

Mr. C. Churchill Tucker who, apart from his extensive wine and spirit business, is an enthusiastic grower of fruit at his well-managed orchard at Beecroft, has lately been testing the carrying capacity of apples, passions and persimmons to London and Colombo as ordinary cargo. He got the purser of one of the mail boats to become interested in the experiments and sent in his care a small consignment of persimmons each to Covent Garden, England, and to the celebrated Galle Face Hotel, Colombo. On arrival at the latter port it was found that the fruit was very ripe and would not carry further, and the purser decided to land the Covent Garden consignment there as well as the Colombo one. The fruit was served up as dessert at the hotel and was well spoken of by some of those who partook of it, but the general feeling was that it would hardly be suitable for consumption in that climate, as there was a fear that it might cause trouble with the 'innards.' Mr. Tucker, however, says that persimmons rather act as an astringent, and in the course of time the prejudice against them on that score would break down. The purser, in his report to Mr. Tucker, stated that it was very evident the fruit would not carry as ordinary cargo at a temperature of 65 degrees. He, however, thought it might do all right in the cooling chamber at a temperature of about 45 degrees. Mr. Tucker says he is not in a position to report as to the consignment of “Jonathan” apples which he sent to London, as it has mysteriously disappeared on route. By the P. and O. steamer China, which left these shores recently, he also sent a consignment of passion fruit, which Mr. Nicolson, of Glenorie, had assisted him in collecting and packing, to London. He had great faith that before long they would establish a good trade in passions with the Old Country. A report regarding the passions will come along in due course. Mr. Tucker acquainted his brother members on the executive of the Fruitgrowers' Union with these experiments at their meeting on Saturday last, and the chairman thought both Mr. Tucker and Mr. Nicolson were deserving the thanks of the Union for the efforts they were putting forth to popularise Australian fruits in other parts of the globe. The meeting agreed with the chairman and carried a vote of thanks by acclamation.