

portation. In the past years sailing vessels have been tried again and again, but the result has always been unsatisfactory to the shippers—cargoes arriving in bad order from long passages and want of ventilation; and steamer freights have been so high as to be prohibitory when added to first cost of apples. During the last four or five years a great advance has been made in that respect, and now apples can be sent from this valley to London at a uniform rate of \$1 per barrel, through freight. In a few years when our newly planted orchards get into full bearing and the export is doubled, we must look for a reduction on freights that will bring this class of goods nearer an equality with flour and other produce. But first of all a local want must be supplied, and that right speedily. There is absolutely no provision made at the terminus of the I. C. R. at Halifax for the shipment of such perishable articles as fruit and vegetables during winter. There is no warehouse to protect a single car of apples from frost on its arrival; and yet it is supposed that when the steamer arrives the cargo is all ready waiting for her. They have a large and splendidly equipped grain elevator, but the port of Halifax only exported \$199,000 worth of grain in the past fiscal year; while during the same time, in spite of the great risk and want of proper accommodation, there was \$226,600 worth of fruit and vegetables shipped, most all of it during the winter months. Now the whole of this came over the railways, in addition to the amount consumed in the city, and it was all subject to the risk of damage by frost on arrival. This should not be and must be remedied in some way, before another seasons work comes on. I have been asked what

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are. Some of them I have mentioned already. There are others. Insect plagues are common enough to cause some anxiety and loss, but they can be destroyed, and the careful man will see that they are. Some others may be classed as diseases. These are not so well understood, but our knowledge of them is increasing and probably before the matter has become serious, a remedy will have been obtained. My letter has grown longer than I intended; but I must say a few words more. We have made great progress in the growing of fruit during the past fifteen years. The acreage of orcharding has been more than doubled, but it takes ten years before any great return can be received from a newly planted orchard; and so we are only now commencing to perceive the increase in crop. Planting is still going