



## The Canadian Horticulturist

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### NOTES AND COMMENTS.

SEVERAL hundred tons of grapes were lately seized by the New York health authorities, and ordered to be thrown into the bay. This was done because they claimed that the grapes were poisoned with copper, that spraying with Bordeaux mixture, which had been so widely practiced for the destruction of the mildew, had left a sufficient amount of poison upon the grapes to make them injurious, if not dangerous, to the health of the consumers. Of course, this must be a great loss to the shippers, and a serious consideration to all growers, who, under such circumstances, must either suffer the loss of their whole crop through mildew, or else risk its seizure after being shipped to the town. Naturally enough, the whole matter was referred to the Department of Agriculture, which had advised the growers to use the Bordeaux mixture for mildew, and which would, therefore, be in a measure responsible for any consequent misfortune to those who had followed its advice. Samples of the affected grapes, which had been seized by the New York authorities, were subjected to an official analysis, and the result set the whole matter at rest, so far as any danger resultant from spraying with copper is concerned, and shows how over-fastidious the health officers of New York City were in the execution of their duties. It was found that so weak was the solution of copper, and so little was the percentage which remained upon the skins of the grapes after spraying, that a person would require to eat at one time a ton of grapes, eight times sprayed with the mixture, before he would take into his system enough to constitute a single poisonous dose!

JOHN M. SAMUELS, who has been appointed Chief of the Bureau of Horticulture of the World's Columbian Exposition, is a Kentuckian, and was born in 1848. His father was a nurseryman, and when the son became of age, he set up