

OPEN LETTERS.

notice, is opportunely emphasized in the letter by your venerable and revered father, Mr. C. E. Woolverton, which appeared in the last issue of your Journal. I refer to the desirability (especially in all sections new to fruit culture) of planting seeds of the hardiest and best varieties of fruits, in the hope of producing something desirable from the standpoint of quality or of adaptability, to the climate and soil of the particular locality in which they are grown. Thus, for Manitoba, where fruits are so difficult to procure and produce, this kind of culture is a work that should engage the close and earnest attention of the pioneer fruit growers of the country. Seeds of the hardiest apples and crabs and small fruits should be sown profusely, their resultant product examined and the best selected therefrom. When we consider the large number of valuable varieties which have come to us and to fruit growers in all lands, by chance, we are impressed with the necessity of giving nature every possible opportunity of improving herself.

JOHN CRAIG,
Horticulturist.

How to Export Apples to Australia.

SIR,—Yours of 30th of October came to hand last month, but as my son advised you, I was just leaving for the north and could not then reply. He sent you a statement of a small lot of apples sent to Winter and a reference to a second lot. The first transaction was profitable, the second a loss. A third arrived on the 5th of January. It will be financially worse than the second. What made the difference? The first lot were well picked, packed, handled here according to the suggestions in my report of last year. The others violated these conditions. To get a profit out of this market the following conditions must be met:

- (1) The fruit must be carefully picked.
- (2) Carefully selected as to kinds and sizes. It cost too much to send defective fruit here and an Act may be in effect next year that requires all codlin moth affected fruit to be destroyed. Medium sized apples are worth two shillings per bushel case more than large ones.
- (3) Carefully packed according to directions previously sent.
- (4) Carefully shipped.

It is as important that the railway shipment should be as sharply looked after as the steamship carriage. If they arrive in Vancouver in a poor condition stop them there, it is useless to send them on. Hence it would be well to have the cases looked at there. Generally the outside will indicate the condition of the contents. They should be shipped in sufficient quantity to take up a cold storage chamber and cool air at 40 to 50 degrees pumped in. The Frisco steamers carry fruit on deck but the Vancouver steam-

ers will not do this. Hence the necessity for the cool storage.

(5) They should be properly handled here. Let me illustrate what I mean. No. 1 lot of apples came to Mr. Winter, who sold your shipment last year. He had his fruit on the market twenty-four hours after the arrival of the ship. The second lot came to a respectable commission fruit dealer who handled them in the ordinary way and as a consequence they were not on the market until seventy-two hours after arrival. Every hour is essential in this climate, and a delay of twenty-four hours makes a great difference in the appearance of the fruit.

(6) Shipments should be confined to fruit to land here early in November and December. Later than this the chances of a good market are very poor. Colonial fruit comes in and prices are low.

(7) Notice should be given of intention to ship, say in July or August in order to stop California fruit being sent here. Otherwise the market will be overstocked and prices be unprofitable.

(8) Too many must not rush into the trade nor too much fruit be sent. High prices are required to meet the cost, and more than a couple of thousand cases at once would ruin the market. Even that number would have to be put into cool storage and handled judiciously.

What is to be aimed at is to get two or three shipments of fruit landed here in good condition and marketed profitably. The Australian buyers would then go into the Canadian market from different cities here and the trade would take care of itself.

J. SHARKE.

Sidney, N. S. W., Jan. 7th, 1897.

Gooseberry Cuttings.

SIR,—Will you please allow me to give the HORTICULTURIST my experience. I have read the dispute in the HORTICULTURIST, also in Green's Fruit Grower. Even nursery-men say gooseberries cannot be propagated from cuttings. Many years ago I trimmed Houghton gooseberry bushes, not because the bushes wanted trimming, but I wanted to enlarge my gooseberry garden. I put the spade in the ground, then drew out the spade and put in the slip. I put in I might say a hundred, and they all grew. Some of them were long. I doubled them, put the double in the ground, top and but end out, both ends grew. I tried the same thing with Downing, but not a bit would grow. Now this land is not moist land, but dry gravel. I have not tried other gooseberries, I have very few of them.

Is the Grimes' Golden apple and the Newtown Pippin apple the self same apple?

GEORGE MARSHALL,
Stirling, On

[No, they are entirely distinct.]—Ed.