

ON SEEDS FROM CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

QUEBEC, 9th April, 1883.

HENRY S. EVANS, Secretary-Treasurer,

Horticultural Society, Montreal :

DEAR SIR,—In accordance with your request to report on the Forest Seeds from the Cape of Good Hope you were kind enough to send me, my reply is they are entire failures, that is to say their vitality was lost previous to their coming into my hands. My experience with Forest Seeds is, so long as the usual conditions are observed, that is a cool, moist temperature, sufficiently low, say 40-100 (so that fungoids cannot grow), they may be easily preserved ; this result may be found every Spring in this climate, but when the seeds of trees are placed in a dry and hot atmosphere, their vitality rapidly passes away. I had no great faith in the Cape seeds when I first saw them, because they looked as if they had been too much dried. My plan to preserve the seeds of Forest trees is, collect in the Autumn in fine weather, dry the seeds thoroughly in bags placed on a verandah (that is exposed to the air), then take a box, sow a layer of sand, a layer of seeds, and so on until the box is full. I then place the box under a fir tree for shelter from too much snow or rain, and in the Spring sow the sand and seeds together, in a hot bed if the seeds are fine, or in the open ground, if they are large.

The danger with us is a late frost killing the seed just as it comes overground.

Your Obedient Servant,

W. RHODES.