

Nova Scotia Association seems to have overlooked in his interesting article of last month a discussion given in his own last annual report, page 97, where this occurs *inter alia* :

"John Donaldson : With respect to grafting the Gravenstein on the Ben Davis—the latter is a *slow-growing tree*. I am afraid Gravenstein would grow out of Ben Davis. I have grafted Gravensteins on the Cayuga Red Streak.

"Professor Sears : I only gave the matter as an example. I have not thought it out. *But your objection is a good one.*"

With those opinions openly expressed in convention and printed in the annual report of the F. G. A. of Nova Scotia, then it is not strange that Senator Ferguson acquired this impression that Ben Davis was a *slow grower* in Nova Scotia. Mr. Donaldson may have been mistaken, but in our official reports it will be well always to revise the discussions carefully and see that no unreliable information is let out uncorrected, for the inexperienced, looking for information, will accept such and have a right to accept such reports as thoroughly reliable. But it is satisfactory to know now on the best authority that the Davis is a "grand grower" and a grand bearer in N. S. and P. E. I.

A. E. BURKE.

Alberton, P. E. I.

SIR,—I notice on page 483 of the December number, from A. E. Burke, that Senator Ferguson went home from visiting us during the exhibition with the idea that in Nova Scotia the Ben Davis tree was regarded as slow growing, delicate and of short duration. I can assure the genial Senator that he carried away a very erroneous impression of the popular idea in Nova Scotia concerning the Ben Davis. Certainly public opinion here would concur with Mr. Burke. The Ben Davis tree in Nova Scotia is a rampant grower, a remarkably early and prolific bearer, hardy and healthy, always clean and thrifty. If any person thinks its career will be short, and many do, it is because of its poor quality. We fear that when it becomes well known in the English market it will fail to sell. While on the authority of Prof. Craig, in Gravensteins and Ribstons the Annapolis Valley has no equal on this continent, it seems like tempting Providence to plant an apple that as grown with us is at best third class and much inferior to the same apple as grown in the Middle and Western States.

Personally I am of the opinion that Stark is fully equal to the Ben Davis as a grower and bearer, and being larger will be a more profitable apple.

Berwick, N. S., Dec. 20, '99. S. C. PARKER.

COLD STORAGE FOR FRUIT GROWERS.

THE fruit farm is the proper place for the cold storage of fruit. This is the consensus of opinion of all authorities. There are many reasons, but the one which appeals most to farmers and sellers is, that with cold storage on the spot, the fruit will not be damaged in handling before it reaches cold stores in the selling centres. Another thing : with the farmer having a knowledge of cold storage he will be more careful of his own harvest in putting it where it will keep. He will reap the profits consequent on the rise in prices where he only received the market value of his product.

This will be added to the value lost in deterioration caused in transit. Thus the grower will, with his own cold stores, obtain from one-third to one-half more for his crop than he would if he possessed no storage facilities.

In the grape districts in Western New York the growers have their own cold storage, and they have found that the grapes picked from the vines and carried direct to storage keep much better and longer than any put in cold storage in the cities. These grapes can be marketed in the middle of winter without much loss from waste.