

Baldwin, Golden Russet, and Ben Davis give good results? Please describe it and its good and bad features, both tree and fruit, and oblige
Georgetown, P. E. I. F. G. BRYER.

This apple has proved valuable in the United States, but is not grown commer-

cially in Canada, and not yet tested long enough to say whether it is adapted to our country. It is rather large, roundish in form, yellow, with crimson check. It ripens in December.

Open Letters.

Export Packing and Bills of Lading.

SIR, - On my return home to Guelph I gave Mr. Hutt my name and membership fee of your Association. I would like very much to be kept posted of any meetings you may have, although I did not say much at your meeting. I have been very much interested in the business, and have been trying to get this act about long before your association had the matter up.

You remember I suggested that our ocean bills of lading should be made out so that should the fruit miss the boat originally intended, for the Foreign Freight Agent of the delivery Railway Company would hand the apples over for the next steamer sailing, the ocean bills would be made out so as to go per any line of steamer—Allan, Dominion, Beaver—so that the insurance policy would be made out accordingly for any of the three lines to Liverpool, and in the same way to other ports, and this would save our apples from laying over in the box cars and hot wharf in Montreal over a week sometimes.

If you have any printed reports of our meeting with the Hon. Sydney Fisher, I would like to get two or three copies so as to send them to receivers interested.

I would like the Bill to deal with size of the so-called Apple Bushel Box for export; the California box is one size, and the Australia box another size, and the Ontario varies from that of the United States box.

The Ontario apple case for export, inside measure is 21 inches long, 10½ inches wide and 11 inches deep.

The Australia apple case is made 20 x 9 x 15, outside measurement, ½ inch side, top and bottom and ¾ inch ends.

I believe if the barrel was made 25½ inch stave, we would get much better barrels, as that is the size of the stave used for flour for the West Indies, etc., and I think the flour trade in Canada will come to the 25½ inch stave bye and bye.

R. A. BUCHART, Guelph.

A Good Beginning.

SIR, - I am starting a fruit garden; of course it is on a small scale, but you know, sir, that from the little acorns the big oaks grow; and so a few rods of ground planted to fruit now, may in time be increased to acres. Last fall I planted about 400 berry bushes and intend to plant 500 more this spring; and I intend to plant 40 plum trees next fall. The few plum and pear trees I planted

some time ago are doing nicely. Besides the fruit garden, I have started a Ginseng plantation; I have 500 seeds planted in the forest and about 2,000 small plants ready to transplant this spring. It takes some time to get stocked with Ginseng, as the seeds require eighteen months to germinate, and then a period of five to eight years before the roots are ready for market. I tried an experiment with peanuts last summer on three different kinds of soils, and I had very good success. I planted a small paper of seeds and had two quarts of peanuts when dried. I cannot raise them here for profit, but with care can grow a few in the garden for home use. I am the first one in the township of Franklin that has started a combined garden stocked with fruit, ginseng and peanuts.

HERBERT FRIER.

Franklin Centre, Province of Quebec.

Too Many Varieties.

A subject which is of great importance to apple growers of this country, particularly at this time of the year when many are ordering trees for spring planting, and one which I intended bringing before the meeting at Brantford had there not been such an amount of other business, is the fact that the number of varieties of apples grown generally in Ontario is decidedly detrimental to our export and home trade. A few of the leading varieties are known in Great Britain, and while many other sorts may be equally as good in themselves, the fact that they are not generally known to the public makes them less valuable to the dealer.

Straight lots of one variety, or carloads containing not more than three or four, always make the best returns. For example, I had at that meeting two sales sheets from Liverpool, one lot was a load of Canadian apples of thirty varieties, and the other a shipment of Maine Baldwins; the former of course was an exceptional case, but as Messrs. Woodall & Co. wrote me recently, if our growers would get rid of 90 per cent. of the outside sorts they would all make far more money.

While I would not wish to say anything to disparage the enterprising efforts of our fruit-growers by seeking new varieties by way of improving on the old, I would ask them to bear in mind that Canada has now many varieties which suit our climate, are well known products of our country, are good carriers in their various seasons, and meet with a good demand, and until some varieties are established as improvements on these, it is advisable to stick closely to the old sorts.