

* Open Letters. *

Apple Shipping.

SIR,—I notice in your valuable journal for March, that at a meeting of the Niagara District Fruit men, the subject of ventilated cars for shipping tender fruit in summer, was taken up and handled very ably, but to my mind there was a matter omitted of far more importance viz., winter shipping of apples to Europe. Now it is a fact that there has been very heavy losses this winter caused by apples being frozen on the way to the shipping ports and lying around waiting for vessels to arrive, and other causes. I have a circular from Wcodall & Co., Liverpool, stating that apples in some cases turned out frozen, out of the bottom of the vessels, even after the long voyage and in the warm vessel.

Apples, when frosted and put into the vessel in that state, will turn wet when they thaw out and will commence to rot at once. I just have returns for a car of Spys from Liverpool, \$1 13 a barrel that cost me in the orchard last fall \$1.50 for the fruit. I think this was the best car I ever shipped and would have made money had it arrived in good order. We want heated cars the same as those used on the C. P. R. I understood they have a coal oil lamp that is sufficient to keep the frost out of a good refrigerator car, also there should be a large shed at Portland and other points of shipping, into which cars could be run in till they are ready to be unloaded. I think that if this matter was taken up and remedied, we would not have so many barrels of slacks and wets and worthless rotten apples exported.

E. LEONARD & SONS, Coboury.

stronger Solutions Paris Green Advised.

SIR,—According to my experience the present formula for paris green for the destruction of eating insect pests is not strong enough to kill anything.

For Gooseberry worm last year I went by the formula 4 oz. of paris green to a coal oil barrel of Bordeaux mixture. This had no effect and I doubled the dose 8 oz., and this only just succeeded. I then sprayed potatoes 4 oz. with milk of lime in the mixture and found it of no use. To ascertain what we had been using by the old teaspoon measure, I filled a barrel and to every pail of the mixture (milk of lime and water)—I put a teaspoon-full of paris green this was 14 oz. to a barrel 40 gals.

A gentleman living near had his orchard overrun last spring with the tent caterpillar, upon my advice he got a spray pump and put on the orthodox 4 oz. and this did not delay their operations of stripping his orchard in the least.

I notice in reports spraying for codling

moths is not always successful, nor in my opinion will it ever be with 4 oz. of paris green to 50 or 40 gals. of water. Still I would counsel every one using Paris green to use milk of lime, as this not only protects the foliage from the effects of the poison and fixes it to the leaf but actually nourishes the leaf. This latter seems questionable but my experience so far seems to justify this conclusion, and this contention supported by other investigators, that the leaf should feed on the lime by absorption does not seem improbable when we remember that many plants take nitrogen from the air. Let this be as it may I am satisfied that the leaves of bushes that are kept coated all summer with lime are of more than normal thickness and size and retain their greenness till destroyed by frost.

Another point; I am satisfied from my own experience and from the experience of others, and the lecture given here last winter before the Farmer's Institute by Alex. McNeil Esq., still further fortifies the opinion, that gooseberry mildew is not affected by Bordeaux after the spores once get hold on either leaf or fruit. Our vantage time is before the leaf comes out, I gave mine a good drenching last fall, not after the leaves had fallen but after they were no longer needful to the bush; this I did with pure blue stone water 2 lbs to 40 gals., but for the future I shall add lime even before the leaves come out, as it fixes the blue stone to the stems for weeks.

STANLEY SPILLET, Nantyre.

Manuring.

SIR,—Your correspondent writing about Potash seems to have entirely misunderstood its application to plant life. As an alkali and base it is undoubtedly important in flesh building both in plants and animals, and although some eminent agriculturists have intimated that magnesia and soda can to some extent take its place, yet they have never for a moment suggested that we can get large crops of anything without potash in plentiful supply. There is, however, a great deal of potash in Canadian as in most other soils, in fact it is usually in much better supply than lime alkaline base. It is very often locked up in unyielding forms in the earth, but is readily liberated by the free caustic lime of the tetra-basic phosphates. The use of mono-calcic (superphosphates) phosphates, or even the di-calcic or tri-calcic (bone) phosphates will not effect the unlocking of the potash because they have no further base of free lime as the tetra-basic phosphates carry. This is one of the many reasons why the tetra-basic phosphates are being recommended by the highest authorities as preferable to superphosphates and bone.

In the light of the most recent researches we are again emphasizing the teaching of Liebig that the acids need more careful attention