

* Open Letters. *

The Plum Crop.

SIR,—The plum crop is a total failure with me. Apples are very, very light, and still dropping; do not think this section will have more than two-thirds as many apples as last season, but they will be better quality, free of fungi.

W. H. DEMPSEY, *Trenton, Ont.*

Plant Distribution.

SIR,—In regard to plant distribution to subscribers to *CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST*, I feel something like Mr. C. B. Jackes, Toronto. I may say also that very often plants arrive thoroughly baked in transit. This year you sent plum trees by express and really it is the first time plants have reached me in good order.

Could the suggestion of publishing a list of hardy plants, and especially where to obtain them, be given, it would be of great benefit. You sometimes recommend, or rather parties writing recommend, especially hardy types of plants, but no nurseryman in Canada seems to have them, though they may be advertised by American firms.

In regard to *Eleagnus*. I have *Eleagnus Longipes* and some other kind sent out by Steele some years ago. Both are half hardy here, and fruit seems about the same; not much for eating anyway.

HENRY C. GUY,
Dudley, Muskoka, Ont.

The Tent Caterpillar.

SIR,—Enclosed you will find some cocoons of the tent caterpillar and you will see that the insects are all dead; not one in twenty can be found living. In many of the cocoons there is a white larva. I witnessed the fly at work yesterday; it eats a hole into the cocoon with its mouth and then inserts its ovipositor; but the one I saw at work failed to

get a hole through the cocoon, owing to its toughness, time and again it would try with its mouth and then with its ovipositor.

The fly resembles the wasp only much smaller; the head, thorax and abdomen are black, with six white stripes across the abdomen. It had six legs of a light red color and two wings almost transparent, with a black spot at the outside half way from the end. It had two (do you call them *horns*) (*antennae*, Editor) about half an inch long, and it had two ovipositors $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch long and it placed them both together when trying to perforate the cocoon.

J. L. G.

The Plant Distribution.

SIR,—I noticed in the June number of the *HORTICULTURIST* you requested an expression of opinion re plant distribution. I would be in favor of discontinuance, and devoting the \$600 to the journal.

I notice in the July number some 30 subjects treated on, I also find about one half that number is copy from American journals, etc. Now I don't object to the American articles, as they are all good, but I do think that there ought to be far more Canadians giving their experience (*Horticultural*) through the columns of your valuable journal; I would suggest that part of the \$600 be devoted to giving cash prizes for the best article or answers on any horticultural subject you may name from time to time in your journal.

The above suggestion is made after reading Mr. C. B. Jackes remarks in the July number re the bonus distribution of plants to give a list of shrubs, etc., suitable for the Canadian climate. Now I think by giving a cash prize for the best article on shrubs, etc., it might be the means of bringing out more Canadian writers. Not for the sake of the cash, but for the honor of being first.

MAT. MCCREATH,

The Cemetery, Kincardine.

Regarding the beetles, (referred to in question 1102) Dr. Fletcher, of Ottawa, says:—

The insects found on pear tree at Glendger Mills, C.B., by D. S. McDonald, are specimens of a predacious there-

fore beneficial bug. The gray soldier bug (*Euschistus tristigmus*) which destroys plant lice and caterpillars. With their proboscis, which when not in use is folded under the breast, they kill their prey and extract the juices.