

## QUESTION DRAWER.

### The Stark.

1137. SIR,—Where do you rank the *Stark* among our apples?

INQUIRER, Strathroy.

The Stark is a large sized apple, rather coarse in texture, of a dull red color, but on the whole of good appearance, and good shipping and keeping qualities. We should rank it second to Baldwin as a commercial apple; though with our friend Mr. Dempsey, of Trenton, it is a favorite shipping variety.

### Plum Rot.

1138. SIR,—Has anything been discovered that will cure plum rot? Does *Curculio* increase rot?

G. F., Waikerville.

The plum rot (*Monilia fructigena*) is propagated by minute spores, which are produced on the outside of rotten specimens of the plum, and are easily distributed by the wind. When these light on a healthy plum, where moisture is present, they quickly start fresh rot. The rotten plums hang upon the tree and soon become dry and mummified. These mummied plums hold some spores until spring, at which time they seem to produce still more of them, and so continue the evil into a new year. It is there-

fore evident that all rotten and mummified plums should be gathered and burned as soon as discovered, as a precaution against plum rot; and secondly, that spraying should be carefully done with Bordeaux just before the blossoms open, then as soon as the fruit is well formed, and again about two weeks later. This is the only treatment we know of to prevent this evil, and this will only do so in part, not completely.

### Grafting.

1139. SIR,—If one were grafting Spy or King on Talman Sweet, at what age of the young tree should the grafting be done? and which is the best mode of grafting?

INQUIRER, Strathroy.

The grafting of an apple tree may be done at any age, but the mode would differ with the age. Two year old seedling apple trees may splice grafted at the collar in doors in the winter, and set out in nursery rows in the spring. Four or five year old trees are whip grafted four or five feet from the ground in spring as they stand; while older trees are cleft grafted, usually cutting limbs about two inches, more or less, in diameter, or they may be crown grafted on large branches.

## Open Letters.

### Dishonest Packing.

SIR,—I have from time to time followed with much interest your articles on dishonest apple packing, and when I saw on page 28 of the last Horticulturist that the "great indignation" of the fruit growers, in session assembled at Whitby, had culminated in a series of resolutions asking for legislation to carry out their proposed regulations, I earnestly hoped that a great step in advance had been taken to remedy this crying evil.

Is the proposed step really in advance? Is it not rather a backward one?

Sec. 3 of these proposed regulations reads: "That all apples or pears packed in closed pack-

ages be subject to inspection by the Government Inspector, and, in case of ten per cent. of the packages of any one grade being found fraudulently packed, the shipper be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 cents a barrel for all packages of that grade."

Briefly stated this section would allow a dishonest shipper to cheat you in nine barrels out of every 100; but if you were smart enough with the aid of the Government Inspector to catch him trying to palm off more than these permitted nine barrels, then he would simply have to discount 50 cents each from the market value of such fraudulent barrels, which he could well afford to do, as each one that he was able to palm off uncaught would net him from \$1 to \$3 more than its value.