

OPEN LETTERS.

Green's Fruit Grower quotes the sulphate at 20 cents a pound, after special enquiry into the matter. At this price a 48-gallon barrel will cost 30 cents, or about the same as the Bordeaux, bluestone being $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents a pound.

T. Eaton, of Toronto, catalogues it at 50 cents a pound, at which price its general use is prohibited.

In the interest of this growing industry, some steps should be taken to have the duty removed. I don't advise giving any coddling to gooseberry growers, but we certainly want a fair field and no favor, and if we can grow the large, rich, luscious English gooseberries, they will soon win their way into popular favor.

STANLEY SPILLET,

Experimenter, South Simcoe Sub-Station.

Gooseberry Cuttings.

SIR.—I was rather amused reading the article on "Raising Gooseberries from Cuttings," in January No. CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST, page 38, and must say that Mr. Spillet is altogether in the wrong, as I have raised any amount from cuttings of various sorts; but as for the industry I can't say much; I have found them slow growers and shy bearers, and have not tried to raise many, still I succeeded with a few. My plan is to make a small trench 5 or 6 inches deep and put in about two inches of sand along the bottom, cover with soil, stick the cuttings in and there is very little more trouble, but keep them clean. The trench should be pretty well shaded.

WALTER HICK, *Goderich.*

Profit Somewhere.

SIR.—I intend in a few days to send you a sample of my Improved Baldwin, as you were pleased to call it, it is not grown in any particularly favorable situation as I have it scattered over different parts of the orchard.

I put cards in several barrels of apples packed, asking the consumer to let me know how they turned out, the quality, price paid, etc. I received three answers, two from near London, very good, Baldwins fine quality; price paid 11/ and 11/6. Another from Nuremberg, Bavaria, well pleased with them, all giving good satisfaction to their customers. So there is a profit somewhere, when all we get for picking, fetching barrels and taking them to a station; boarding the packers—and they take none but the best—was 50 cts. I consider the packers and buyers are knaves.

WALTER HICK, *Goderich.*

Growing Gooseberry Cuttings.

SIR.—The HORTICULTURIST for January, 1897, page 39, contains a letter from Mr. F.

W. Porter, of Mount Forest, on "Gooseberry and Currant Growing," in which he says, "In Mr. Spillet's article (in Toronto News) he makes the assertion that gooseberry bushes cannot be grown from cuttings," and then states that his own experience proves the reverse. Mr. Spillet's reply appears on the same page wherein he says "I emphatically repeat my statement in Daily News, that practically the gooseberry can't be propagated from cuttings."

As Mr. Spillet is conducting one of the Experiment Stations and is therefore supposed to have had considerable practical experience in that line: this statement of his "That gooseberry bushes cannot be grown from cuttings," is, in my opinion misleading, and may do much injury by discouraging would-be growers of that excellent fruit.

If Mr. Spillet had given the subject the consideration it deserved he would not, I think, have made such an emphatic statement; because many amateur gooseberry growers throughout the country are successfully and profitably producing bushes from cuttings every year. I have been growing gooseberries for the past 20 or 25 years and during that time have grown a considerable number of bushes from cuttings. One year I planted 500 cuttings of the Whitesmith variety, from which I obtained more than 90 per cent of first-class bushes, and I can assure my amateur friends that notwithstanding Mr. Spillet's statement, any one can have like success by working intelligently.

THOS. BEALL, *Lindsay.*

Best Early Forcing Tomato.

SIR.—Would like to know what are the best early tomatoes for greenhouse for forcing early.

A. E. FRENCH, *Brantford.*

Ice House Ventilation.

SIR.—I built an ice-house for my own use, 13 x 14 and 7 ft. posts, and went to the expense of running a ventilator along the top, 3 ft. wide and 2 ft. high, with roof the full length of ice-house. I understood that ventilation was one of the most important factors in the keeping of ice. Last season my supply wasted very rapidly, although well put in, and covered thoroughly with sawdust. I am now told that I must reduce my ventilation by at least $\frac{3}{4}$, as I am letting in too much heat in summer. I should very much like to hear from those who know.

A SUBSCRIBER,
Belleville, Ont.

Grow Seedlings.

SIR.—One thing that I think we should remember, and that is a practice which, I