

OPEN LETTERS.

is as effective as sixteen feet of one-inch pipe, which can at once be seen to be false. In a similar manner, the error of using the cubic contents only in determining the radiation for a conservatory, can be shown.

L. R. TAFT.

*Agricultural College, Michigan,
May 12th, 1897.*

Exhibition of Fruit and Vegetables without Name.

SIR,—I forwarded a communication to Mr. Heyes, Secretary of the Ottawa Horticultural Society, last summer, as to the advisability of each prize winner writing a paper giving the history of the exhibit, from seed or plant, to the time of exhibit.

Name of article.
Seed, where grown.
Plant, " "
Fruit, " "

Reason for asking the questions:—Mr. A. or B, receiving a first or second prize, gives no information to the Society generally; for instance: at the exhibit for Cabbage Lettuce, one will exhibit a Golden Queen another, Hanson, etc. Those varieties are not named by the exhibitor. The same on the transplanted Onion; one will exhibit a Prizetaker, another, Red Globe, some a Giant Rocca. On self-blanching Celery, some will have a white plume, some a pink, some a Golden self-blanching. The same occurs on Cauliflower; one will show Sutton's first of all, another Henderson's Snowball, another Erfurt, and so on, through the whole piece the varieties are not named. I hold that if it is necessary to name fruits and flowers, it is also necessary to name the different varieties of vegetables and to give the points of merit on each exhibit, as there is considerable dissatisfaction with the judging. There are so many varieties in one exhibit, that the judges have no fair chance of giving a fair decision. I forward this communication for publication in the CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST, if you see fit to do so, for the purpose of getting the views of kindred societies. For instance, there were two first prizes given for White Plume self-blanching Celery, in '95, one as an early celery in the summer and one as a late white or winter celery in the fall. A leading member of the Society failed to see any difference between the White Plume self-blanching celery and the Winter White celery. I claim that these are two distinct classes of celery and ought not to be exhibited together.

WM. SPENDLOW,
Billingsbridge, Ont.

Fruit Growers and Shipping Companies.

A meeting of the Lincoln and Welland Fruit Growers was held in St. Catharines, on Saturday, 27th March. Iced cars were commended for carrying fruits for the Montreal market, for though longer than express, they would reach Montreal in quite as good

condition, at less expense. The growers asked for special R. R. rates of 35c. per cwt. for Montreal, in broken lots, and 25c. in car lots in iced cars; and by express, 50c. to Montreal. The answer of the Companies was reserved.

Notes from Africa.

SIR,—Please send me sample copies of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST. I want to secure 36 members in South Africa, and feel sure I can do so with the influence I have here among my old friends. The journal is much improved, and I consider it very cheap with the Report. I like it very much, and am willing to act as general agent for this part of South Africa, a wide district. I shall always take great interest in the journal, and in Canadians who are so very loyal, and such warm-hearted people.

Japan plums are doing remarkably well here and making more wood than any other kind. We have to dispense with all kinds of apple trees here, except the Northern Spy, on account of the blight.

T. RHODES,
Mokstad, Griqualand East, South Africa.

Fruit Prospects.

SIR,—Thinking you would like to hear how the prospects are for fruit for this year in this district. Pears of all kinds are very heavy with blossom, also cherries, and plums. I had a D. Purple plum that yielded over six bushels last year, now it is loaded with bloom, and apple contrary to expectation, notwithstanding the large crop last year are making a fine show, especially the R. I. Greenings that bore heavy the last season; the Rib. Pippin not much last year, are thick with bloom; the N. Spys I never saw such a quantity of blossom; Kings that had a load last year are not making much show while others are thick, several other sorts are very good if frost keeps away there will likely be a good crop.

WALTER HICK, *Goderich.*

Gooseberry Mildew.

SIR,—Referring to cures for gooseberry mildew in a recent HORTICULTURIST, I would just like to say that I have been growing gooseberries for a good many years, including all the leading English and American varieties, with excellent crops every year, and have yet to see a trace of mildew on my bushes, of which I have probably 50, all told. I think this is due to several causes—a warm, dry, sandy soil, plenty of wood ashes, say a patent pail to each bush every spring, spread as far as the area of the branches, and forked in, and constantly pruning the bushes to tree shape, where the habit of the variety will permit it, allowing a free circulation of air around and through the foliage. Never a chemical, except once in a while nitrate of soda, and Paris green or hellebore for the worms.

C. W. YOUNG, *Cornwall.*