

* Open Letters. *

LETTER FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA.

SIR,—I have planted about twenty acres of fruit trees here for Mr. W. E. Scott, of Vesuvius Bay, Salt Spring Island, B. C., and have persuaded him to unite with us. I have also found a plant growing here very much resembling the olive in its habit of growth and the manner in which it bears its fruit. It also has one stone in each fruit, which, when ripe, is red instead of green or yellow, as most olives are. It is so much like the olive in character, that I am convinced that olives would grow here, and I am getting some from California to experiment with.

A. W. BARROW, *Vesuvius Bay, Salt Spring Island, B. C.*

MOORE'S DIAMOND GRAPE, ETC.

SIR,—As Moore's Diamond grape is to be distributed for trial this spring, I write to say that I have one vine growing in my garden, and, last summer, it bore ten bunches of very fine grapes. The bunches were large, very compact, and the quality was first class. The vine is about four years old.

I have a Vergennes grape vine planted in 1889. It had four bunches of first class grapes last summer, and these were of good quality. The vine is a strong grower.

I have also the Industry gooseberry. It is a good cropper and a large berry. I measured some of the berries and they were four inches round. I gathered sixteen quarts off of three small bushes, only three years old, without sign of mildew or rot.

I will write more soon regarding other varieties of fruits which I have growing in my garden. I am an amateur fruit grower, living in St. Thomas. I notice that Mr. E. Morden advises city men to stay in the city and eat all the fruit they can, and buy from outsiders, but some of us city men can grow as good fruit as outsiders, and more of it in one garden lot than some of the outsiders do on three lots, and we can eat it, too.

WM. WORTH, *St. Thomas.*

MCINTOSH RED.

SIR,—I was very much struck at Hamilton by the McIntosh Red, and certainly I am inclined to agree with Mr. Shepherd as to its value in England. Some one, however, said that, like the Fameuse, it was likely to spot badly most years. Have you any information as to its adaptability to this section.

In an American paper I see the Dominie highly spoken of. With me, it is absolutely worthless. Bad shape, bad grower, and a bad looking apple: and upon each occasion when I have sent it to England, its native place, I believe, it has never failed to bring the lowest price of any sent. Evidently, they knew it!

If we can grow such lovely apples as the McIntosh Red, as shown at Hamilton, I think we ought to do so, as I believe such apples will always fetch fancy prices in England, and I don't think that I ever saw such a perfect-looking red apple as the McIntosh Red that I saw in Hamilton. I see in the Annual Report that the experts give Northern Spy full marks for foreign market. I am extremely curious to know what foreign market that applies to. From a constant study of returns from Great Britain, and from some considerable experience in sending Spys to London, I don't think they mean the British market! I would very much like to hear from the large shippers as to whether they ever once got the top price for the Northern Spy in their consignments to Great Britain. I know I never did. This year they were as good as they could be possibly, but they were beaten by half a dozen varieties in Covent Garden.

(GEORGE BUNBURY, *Oakville.*)