

page 52, Mr. Smith practically states that plums cannot now be shipped to Northwest owing to lack of favorable rates and conditions. Yet, as you will see by the clipping enclosed, the express company can, and have done so in the past, make both favorable rates and conditions for B. C. shippers, from the coast to Winnipeg, a greater distance than from Ontario fruit points to the prairie capital, and even on such perishable fruits as strawberries. Plums in large quantities are shipped (California style packages), and arrive in splendid condition.

Last season a friend sent me by express a case (Wilson) of pears from Beamsville, just as a test of keeping qualities of Bartlett. About three-fourths proved to be in perfect condition. The balance were quite soft. The square apartments in the drawers were not suitable for the larger pears. Wrapped in paper, in boxes, pears should carry safely to any Northwest point. Yours truly,

A. W. FINBOW.

(From Daily News-Advertiser, Vancouver, B.C.)

If plans now pending between the fruit growers of British Columbia and the officials of the Dominion Express Company are completed, three times as much fruit will be shipped this year from Vancouver to Winnipeg as was ever the case in any previous year.

Inspector Kirby, of the Dominion Express Company, this morning announced that his company is prepared to run a daily car all summer especially for the fruit export of the province. This will be attached to the through express, and will make a three-day trip to Winnipeg.

Last year cars of the pattern that will be used this season every day were operated many times during the season. No regular schedule was arranged, but the car was run only whenever sufficient business offered to make it worth while. The car has special ventilators, and has every convenience for the transportation of fruit in the best and most practicable manner.

"This car will be run every day after June 1," said Mr. Kirby. "The strawberry crop will be the first handled, and then the other fruits as they ripen. We will give the best possible service to Winnipeg, and at rates that should meet all the requirements of the growers. A meeting of the local association will be held in Victoria on March 4, and by that time we will be able to announce a tariff."

#### PLUMS ON THE WILD PLUM STOCK.

Some time ago the question was asked, How will plums grow on the wild or Chickasaw stock?

We have about four hundred grafted or budded on the wild stock. They are quite vigorous, and regular annual bearers of heavy crops. In fact, most of our best show plums are gathered from these trees. They should, however, be grafted or budded very low down, otherwise the more vigorous growing varieties for a time would outgrow the stock. But when they get into bearing the top will not grow so fast and

the stock seems to catch up. Where only a few trees are wanted a good way is to take sucker roots about half to three-quarters inch in diameter, plant in nursery row for one year, then cut off low to the ground and graft with the required varieties. They will make trees wonderfully fast, and are as easily grown as potatoes.

J. G. MITCHELL,

Georgian Bay Experimental Station,  
Clarksburg, Ont.

#### MR. T. H. RACE AT KINCARDINE.

Sir: We had a treat last week, consisting of two addresses on the following subjects (by Mr. T. H. Race, of Mitchell, one of the best amateur rose culturists of Ontario), viz., *Bulb and Rose Culture, and Their Influence Upon the Home.*

The subject of bulb culture was treated on to the students of the various schools in our town in the Town Hall, beginning at 4.15 p.m., and was listened to with a great deal of interest, and no doubt there was implanted on the minds of many the seeds of knowledge that will lead to the beautifying and adornment of homes in the future.

In the evening Mr. Race lectured to an appreciative audience in a fairly filled hall. It being St. Patrick's day in the evening, the Methodists had a social for the benefit of their church, and so many were prevented from hearing the refining lecture, but when we know that about 150 students in the afternoon and about 300 grown up people in the evening listened with marked attention to such an experienced amateur, the refining influence will be widespread.

Mr. Race contends that the culture of flowers and plants gives an interest to the young and makes home attractive, and also that "love of country" is only seen in and by a home-loving people.

The Culture and Care of Roses was very interesting, and many took notes.

The speaker said that rose bushes for outside planting should be about two years old and be planted in rows 5 feet apart and 3 feet apart in the rows, and when sufficiently grown to bend one cane of each bush and tip it near the root of the next and train this so that the shoots rising therefrom will form the flowering stems.

To destroy the thrip he has found nothing equal to hen manure put beneath the plants, the ammonia from same proving certain death to this pest of the rose bush, and that soap suds sprinkled over and under the leaves also kill the thrip.

We spoke very highly of the usefulness of the toad in the garden, particularly in destroying ants, which are so troublesome in many gardens. He places a toad under a box set close to an ant hill, and so quickly does master toad catch them that very soon not an ant can be found. The prejudice against toads should be taught to be wrong and every means taken to preserve them.