

## OPEN LETTERS.

**The Niagara Fruit Exhibit Before the Duke and Duchess.**

SIR,—In looking over the February number of of the Horticulturist I find a timely communication from J. P. Brennan, Esq., Grimsby. I am more than surprised at his closing remarks, namely "We had a golden opportunity to show the Duke and Duchess of York the resources of the fruit sections of Ontario, but it was lost," &c. Doubtless Mr. Brennan at the time of the Niagara Fruit Exhibit was very busy with the final disposal of his fruit crop, and like some other fruit growers failed to notice in the Toronto daily papers, also the St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Niagara Times papers reports of this Niagara Fruit Growers' Exhibit for the Royal party at the Queen's Royal Hotel, Oct. 12, 13, 14, 1901. I now enclose a clipping from the Toronto Mail referring to the subject:—

"No, the fruit growers were not behind. The exhibit was in every respect a decided success and is thought to be the best advertisement ever given our export trade in fruit.

"The collection of peaches, grapes, pears, strawberries and figs was exceptionally fine in regard to flavor, size and color, and was said to be the best ever seen at that late season, Oct. 12th to 14th.

"The exhibit in the above named fruits was larger than at any time seen on the tables during our Ontario Fruit Exhibit at the Pan-American, except after the 10th of September, when the tables of that exhibit literally groaned under the pressure."

I seldom take the trouble to correct an error in print, but in justice to the committee, the contributors and Mr. Winnett of the Queen's Royal Hotel, Niagara, who together paid every cent of the cost of this exhibit, this explanation is now needed.

The chairman of this exhibit received a letter from the Governor-General Lord Minto, expressing the thanks and high appreciation of the Royal party to the fruit growers for their excellent display of fruit at Niagara. I am, yours sincerely,

W. ARMSTRONG.

Riverside Fruit Farm, Queenston, Feb. 19, 1902.

**Orchard Tools and Implements.**

SIR,—I think a very interesting article might be written on orchard tools and implements. I have a good sized young orchard which I have been cultivating with a disc harrow, but that is a pretty heavy instrument for a team, and my idea is that an orchard would be easier and better cultivated if part of the cultivating were done with a spring tooth cultivator and not a harrow, because I think the harrow does not stay well enough in the ground and is liable to be knocked against the trees with stones, but the spring tooth cultivators that are made now have very high wheels. The

trouble with those is that if the trees are branched out 4 or 4½ feet from the ground, they run out a little before growing upwards, and with the high wheel cultivator one has to keep out perhaps three feet from the trees, or the high wheel will scrape the 1 mbs.

FRANCIS S. WALLBRIDGE, Belleville.

**Fruit and Health.**

SIR,—Has the Association ever paid any attention to the scale on the orange imported into this country, or has the Association ever paid attention to the fruit and vegetables imported into this country in a diseased condition? What effect has this decayed fruit on the health of the people? Some five years since I noticed on the Ottawa market, imported cabbage in a decaying state. I claimed at the time, that if such importation was continued it would bring sickness to the consumer. The importation has been continued and I claim as a result it is largely responsible for the present state of health in the Dominion of Canada.

Those imports ought to be inspected at the port of entry by a health officer and all fruit that is in bad condition returned to the shipper at the shipper's expense and not to be appraised by the custom-house officer.

In regard to fruit packing, when fraud is found why not make the penalty the returning of the package to the shipper and charging him all expenses.

Billings Bridge, Ont. MARKET GARDENER.

**Bug Death—A New Insecticide.**

SIR,—Having recently received numerous enquiries regarding the composition of "Bug Death" a new insecticide, for destroying the potato beetle, we submitted the material to analysis and obtained the following data:—

Moisture .....	.40 per cent.
Insoluble matter, sand, etc.....	11.21 "
Oxide of iron and alumina.....	5.60 "
Lime.....	.51 "
Potash .....	none
Zinc oxide.....	\$2.10 per cent.
Lead and copper.....	faint traces.
Phosphoric acid.....	traces.
Chlorine.....	.47 per cent.
Nitrogen.....	.107 "

These results show that it is practically an impure or commercial zinc oxide, no doubt a by-product. As regards the essential elements of plant food, it is strikingly deficient, the only constituent present of any fertilizing value being nitrogen, of which there is only one-tenth of one per cent. It is therefore, obvious that any claims made for it as supplying nourishment for crops are without foundation.

Yours truly,

FRANK T. SHUTT,

Dominion Experimental Farm, Ottawa. Chemist.