

## \* Open Letters. \*

### Spraying while Trees are in Blossom.

SIR,—When the Spraying Bill was passed before the House, it was done largely through the endorsement of fruit growers, and I think whatever prejudices then existed, has largely worn away since that time. It is now admitted that no good can result from spraying trees while in blossom, and if it does not injure the blossom, it is at least a loss of time and material. During the past year there has been a good deal of spraying of fruit trees while in blossom. There doubtless has been occasions when the law has been broken in ignorance, and I know of one or two instances where experimental work has been carried on, and, owing to uncertain weather, there may have been some excuse for transgressing; but there are others who have openly and in defiance of the law, sprayed during the prohibited time. This is particularly the case with men who charge so much for spraying orchards, and they begin as early in the season as they can and continue as long as work will be given them. I have been asked to bring this matter before the Fruit Growers' Association, knowing that in this way attention of fruit growers could best be drawn to the matter. There should be fellowship between two branches of agriculture—which the greatest scientists of the world have linked together in so interesting a way. I have reference to the pollinization of blossoms by bees.

R. F. HOLTERMAN,  
*President Beekeepers' Association.*

### Fruit Growing in Scotland.

SIR,—In the fruit growing business, this has not been a profitable year. Prices were very low all round, and few if any growers have done more than make ends meet. Family expenditure will require to be met out of capital. As jam makers are likely to be well cleared out before next season, prospects are better for the coming year. At my own fruit farm at Bridge of Allan, I pulled 30 tons gooseberries, 37 tons strawberries, over 10 tons raspberries, and odds and ends of currants, etc. My apples, pears and plums are coming into bearing, that is, those first planted, and I had some very fine samples this year on the young trees. We cannot compete, however, with your apples. Our only chance is in growing early baking apples, that will be in the market before your Canadians arrive. We have no early or even late eating apples of sufficient excellence to go alongside your Spies, Newtowns, Baldwins, Kings, etc. There was a fairly big crop of Scotch apples, also Irish apples, and prices were fair till Americans came in, when ours became quite

a drug, and had to be sacrificed at prices that spelled loss to the dealers. I never saw so many American apples in evidence as this year. Every Tom, Dick and Harry is buying a barrel, while they are being hawked up and down the country at 1d. per pound, by hawkers innumerable. In this way half a dozen barrels will be disposed of for one in ordinary years. Judging from the quantities arriving, your crop must be enormous. Fortunately, quality is also turning out good. There appear fewer spotted fruit, and slack barrels are turning out better than they usually do.

We are contemplating starting a Fruit Growers' Association on this side, to look after the interest of growers with respect to railway rates, salesmen's commissions, insect pests, etc. In fact, pretty much on the lines you have adopted in your quarter. The hints given in your "Association's Transactions" will help us to get under way.

Again thanking you for your kindness, I remain, yours faithfully,

R. SCOTT,  
*Carlisle, Scotland.*

### The Dominion Journal of Horticulture.

SIR,—It is with pleasure that I peruse Mr. Roys letter in your December number, containing as it does the most feasible solution of a question that must be met and answered at an early day.

As a member of the committee appointed at Kingston for the purpose of suggesting some method for placing our present journal in the position that it should and must occupy, unless we are content to allow our more progressive American competitors to take the cream of our more advanced workers on all lines, I felt regret that this committee did not report in time for me to express a few frigid facts that could be better advanced during general discussion, than in a report or correspondence.

Not long ago I was asked to take stock in a new Canadian journal of horticulture, but declined doing so unless it was made national and issued weekly. The movement failed for the moment, but I was told that "we must learn to creep before we could walk." Now we do not want to learn to creep, as those who have not graduated from that stage of development, are still in the chrysalis form, or are buried in the cycles of the past, and if any wish to continue creeping, no surprise need be expressed when they are walked over by others.

Would any intelligent listener at the recent annual meeting claim for one moment that creeping was the proper position for those whose efforts on well directed lines lead th world? I do not think so.