

(Draft)

DEAR SIRS,—I am directed by the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture to state that representations have been made to the Department of Agriculture by many of the chief shippers and receivers of Canadian apples and cheese that it is desirable that the holds and other parts of the steamships in which apples and cheese are carried to Great Britain should be ventilated by forced circulation of air during the voyage.

It is well known that cheese and apples generate heat during the process of curing and ripening. Unless provision is made for the removal of the heat thus generated, the places where the apples and cheese are carried become heated, to the damage of the flavor and other qualities of these products.

The shippers of these products have represented to this Department that it would be greatly to the benefit of all these connected with the trade in these products—producers, merchants and the steamship owners—to have ventilated accommodation for them on all the steamships. Similar representations have been made to the Department from importers of these products in Great Britain.

I am directed to say to you that, to encourage the equipment of steamships which are in the trade to carry cheese and apples with the ventilating shafts and fans which are necessary for the purpose indicated, the Minister has authorized the payment of \$100 toward the initial expense of fitting up each approved steamship, to be paid after such ventilating equipment has been kept in use for at least three voyages.

A blue print illustrating the provision that can be made for such ventilation, is sent to you under another cover. A number of the steamships sailing between Canadian ports and Great Britain have already been fitted up in accordance with these plans, and the results have been satisfactory.

Two or more agents of this Department will be at Montreal to observe how cheese and apples are loaded in the various steamships in order that the Department may be able to make recommendations to the producers and shippers of these products, looking towards improvement of their quality and the condition of the packages. It is intended to have agents of this Department also in at least four of the cities of Great Britain to observe the condition in which cheese, butter and apples particularly are discharged from the various steamships.

The names of the steamships, together with a statement of the facts as to whether they are properly ventilated, will be published from time to time by the Department, in accordance with the reports received from these inspectors, in Canada and Great Britain.



FIG. 1890. CLIMBING HYDRANGEA.

As the safe carriage of these products will be to the benefit of all concerned, the Department ventures to expect that as on former occasions it will have the hearty co-operation of the steamship owners and agents.

Yours truly,
JAS. N. ROBERTSON, Commissioner.

Is the Love for Flowers Diminishing in the City of Hamilton?

On the 21st June the Directors of the Horticultural Society held their annual flower show, which was certainly a very fine show of cut flowers, and was very creditable to the untiring efforts put forth by the President and Directors. The display of roses and herbaceous cut blooms was particularly good, and some of the specimens not often seen in this country, such as the Rhododendrous, Ghent and Mollis varieties of hardy azalias grown out of doors. There was a large display of roses by a number of exhibitors; the peonies were also very fine. We noticed also very fine blooms of the following: *Digitalis* or Fox Glove, *Campanulas* (Canterbury bells), *Iris*, *Poppies*, *Pyrethums*, *Lychnus*, *Hemerocalus*, *Herbaceous Spireas*, etc. Mr. Wild exhibited the best samples