

OPEN LETTERS.

lations, by-laws, etc., of the Association : such application to be accompanied by a recommendation signed by at least two reliable persons. The by-laws should of course set up the standard required for "Hilt Edge" or "X X X" apples etc. : each member specially agreeing that all fruit not passing inspection be confiscated, as well as to have that fact published in the "HORTICULTURIST" and other papers.

One of the main advantages to the shipping members would be the adoption of a uniform and elaborately engraved and copyrighted design, printed upon special waterproof paper of circular shape, just right to cover the outside head of each barrel. These should each be indelibly numbered, and should be under the control of the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association, who upon application would issue them as required, first inserting upon *each* label the applicant's name and address with stencil, together with his own signature and date in the blanks left for that purpose (leaving one blank for the name of the variety of the apple). A careful account of the number issued to each applicant should be kept, and should it be found advisable, any applicant might be required to report to the Secretary what he had done with his labels. All unused labels to be returned at the end of the shipping season to the Secretary and new ones issued the next season : the year to be in *very large* (but light, open work) figures across the center of the label, which should also bear the words : "This label is only valid for use over apples grown in the year . . . and its use is specially forbidden by the rules of this Association any year after that time." This would prevent any unworthy member from fraudulently using old labels after having been expelled from the Association.

If the standard of quality required by the Association was a high one and rigidly insisted upon by efficient inspection, and all offenders promptly expelled, and their fruit confiscated, it seems to me the demand for apples bearing this design would very soon exceed the supply. Not more than 5 bbls in a 100 would probably need to be examined after the first year.

If you think this too crude an idea, please give us a better one ; but for the sake of the future of the apple trade of Canada (of which I understand Ontario furnishes by far the largest share) something practical should at once be devised to prevent the trade from further falling into public disgrace and disrepute.

GEO. O. GOODHUE.

Danville, P. Q.

The Plant Distribution.

We have the most diverse opinions regarding the Plant Distribution. Some say discontinue and put the \$600 it costs into the JOURNAL ; others say it is most important, do not give it up. The following letter from Mr. C. B. Jackes, Toronto, takes a very moderate view of the whole matter :

SIR,—In your last issue you ask an expression of opinion as to the discontinuance of the bonus distribution of plants, etc. So far as I am concerned, I do not see how you can afford to distribute these plants and give the splendid value you do for the subscription price, and if the discontinuance of the bonus would enable you to increase the value of your periodical, by all means put the value of the plants there.

The plant sent me was an *Elæagnus longipes*. It came apparently in perfect order, carefully wrapped and covered. I at once puddled the roots and planted it same day. It never showed a sign of life until the 1st June, and I was a dozen times on the point of throwing it away. However, on scratching the bark near the ground there appeared to be some sap in it, so I allowed it to remain. On 1st June I observed signs of sprouting, and now there are half a dozen healthy sprouts making up for lost time.

Of course, it is nice to get the plants which you send out, but I think the same object would be accomplished if you would occasionally, say in the September and February numbers, publish a list of desirable ornamental shrubs, hardy in the climate, for Fall or Spring planting, giving the common name as well as the scientific, and stating the prices at which they may be obtained, and finally, but most important, give the name and address of a reliable nurseryman from whom they can be obtained. The course now pursued by myself and many others is to order such plants through one of the seed firms in the city, knowing full well that we pay their prices for the article, but preferring to do so if we get a good article, rather than order through plausible agents.

