

apple trees five to eight inches in diameter to crown graft, armed only with "a scion, some string and paper, mud, and a sharp saw," he will spend considerable time in the near future removing apple tree stumps, and will live to curse the day he tried such an operation.

S. C. PARKER,

Berwick, Nova Scotia.

Mr. Parker's remarks are mostly in place. We have so often written up this subject that it seemed almost superfluous to go into details showing the importance of removing only a portion of the top in any one season, and of leaving a sufficient quantity for foliage to continue the vigorous circulation of the sap while the graft is uniting, that we simply answered comparing methods.

We have at Maplehurst forty apple trees that were crown grafted about ten years ago by the writer, and each year are producing fine crops of Duchess and Yellow Transparent apples, and the work was done just in the manner that Mr. Parker despises, with "scion, string, mud, paper and a sharp saw." Three of the limbs on each tree 4 or 5 inches in diameter, were cut just above the crotch, leaving of course enough limbs with foliage

to continue the vigor of the tree. We set about half a dozen scions in each stub, which soon covered the cut with young growth, and the union was perfect.

While we agree with Mr. Parker that it is best to remove only a portion of the top each season, here in Ontario, where the growth is more vigorous than in Nova Scotia, even the "lunatic" who cuts off the whole top at once, will often succeed. We have three or four examples at Maplehurst of pear trees so treated, some five, some ten feet from the ground, that are to-day in full bearing and the place of the union can hardly be traced.

#### Simons Plum.

1245. SIR,—You will find enclosed fruit for name. The tree grows much like a peach, and the fruit is on the limbs different from the way other fruits grow.

Owen Sound.

M. FORHAN.

This is the Simons plum, which was distributed by our Association some years ago. It is of little real use, and the tree is short lived.

## Open Letters.

### The Fruit Marks Act.

SIR,—The remark with which you close your note on my letter in the last Horticulturist shows that you do not fully apprehend the present state of the law regarding the grading of apples. We have not to look to the future for "definite grades which will form a basis of sale to foreign buyers." Here is the law as it now stands:

No. 1 Inspected Canadian apples shall consist of well grown specimens of one variety of nearly uniform size, of good color, sound, free from scab, wormholes and bruises and properly packed.

No. 2 Inspected Canadian apples shall consist of specimens of one variety, reasonably free from the defects mentioned in class No. 1, but which on account of inequality of size, lack of color or other defects could not be included in that class."

See *Victoria 56, Chap. 35, Section 1.*

I think you will agree with me that these are well defined grades and that they furnish a basis for foreign sales.

The principal merit of *The Fruit Marks Act*,

1901, consists in the foundation which it lays for the prosecution of those who mark fruit packages falsely, or who by facing the packages with superior fruit give a decidedly false representation of the contents. It does not lower the standard, but it furnishes a good basis for proceedings under the Criminal Code against flagrant offenders.

The weakness of the Act consists in the fact that the inspection which it authorizes is not to be made under the General Inspection Act which provides for the appointment of only qualified inspectors.

Your remark that 80 or 90 per cent of Canadian apples, as usually packed by speculators, are blemished, is in my opinion unwarranted, and is calculated to injure the fruit trade of Canada. Here is what Prof. Robertson, Commissioner of Agriculture, said in 1898 on this point in giving evidence before the House of Commons Committee of Colonization and Agriculture:

"On the whole in England I did not find more than two or three per cent of the apples not honestly packed; I mean by that, barrels that are faced by fine apples and filled with poor ones. There