

Pinus strobus. We learn that Bhotan pine is found in the Himalayas at elevations between five and ten thousand feet. This is its home. Here it flourishes, growing frequently to the height of 150 feet. Brown, the noted Scotch forester, states that it was introduced into Britain in 1823. It appears never to have been very widely cultivated, but specimens are found scattered throughout the British Isles and in America; one frequently meets with it in the New England states. Like white pine, the leaves are found in whorls of five. They are glabrous on their inner faces and a blueish green without. The cones are produced singly, are cylindrical and slightly conical in form.

The tree has a very general resemblance to the white pine. The distinguishing points are the leaves and the cones. The former

are longer and the latter more slender. In outline, the Bhotan pine is tall and distinctly conical. The specimen at Gibbland farm was planted in 1878. It is now something over twenty feet in height. Not quite as tall as a Douglas spruce along side of it which was planted at the same time, (see illustration.) The wood of Bhotan pine does not appear to be as much prized as White pine, being somewhat softer in texture with less strength. The chief uses of this tree then are those which serve the aesthetic, and tend to please the eye. In outline it is handsome and symmetrical. In shading and coloring, like all silvery leaved trees in the early part of the summer, it is particularly soft and beautiful.

JOHN CRAIG.

Cornell University,
Ithaca, N. Y.

OUR FRUIT MARKETS.

LOOKING at the value of our Winter Apples from the standpoint of the fruit grower, we are inclined to take the views of apple buyers *cum grano salis*. First, we are told of the enormous crops in England and on the Continent then that the crop of North America is equal to that of 1896, when prices ruled so low in the month of December that many shippers only received about enough to pay freights, and had better have left their apples to waste in the orchard.

It appears that these buyers have met in Toronto and agreed to pay only 50c. a barrel for winter apples! Are we growers to have such a low price put on our goods as this and submit without a word? The fact is that these buyers are organised and will act in concert with regard to the purchasing price, while we growers, having never agreed about the selling price, are simply at their mercy, and must take what they choose to offer.

Were it not for the organization of the buyers, the law of competition would get us fair play, but as it is what can we expect but to suffer from a disadvantage? But even this condition of affairs may not be an un-mixed evil, for it will lead to a new system of fruit shipping, sooner or later. At Grimsby, for example, eight of us, who have large orchards, have united for the purpose of packing our fruit uniformly and making up carload lots for export on our own account. We grade our finest colored apples with Wartman's grader, making apples $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter No 1, $2\frac{3}{4}$ A No. 1 and 3, Extra A No. 1; or, instead of Grade we sometimes use the words Diameter $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, etc. We wrap them in tissue paper and pack them in boxes, with excelsior or sphagnum packing. Then we use a uniform set of marks, so that the goods we ship are at once recognized, and will command their true value in any market