

## \* Open Letters. \*

### Caterpillars.

SIR,—I find my orchard is badly infested with caterpillars. They are as yet very small but working industriously and I see have done a good deal of damage to leaves and blossoms which are pretty for adornment. Have sprayed all my trees twice thoroughly so far, first spray with blue stone, second blue stone, Paris green and lime. What an effect it has on other things it does not appear to bother the caterpillar. We had them last year but scraped them off and killed them on the trunks and big branches and burnt the ones higher up with coal oil torch. We had a good deal of work doing it but got rid of them in that way. This year however, they are apparently going to be even worse than last, at least their ravages are showing up worse than so far last year. Is there nothing can stop them? Was thinking of kerosene but am afraid it will hurt the leaves and blossoms. If I knew the formula of mixing it I would try it. If we cannot get rid of them in some way they will ruin our orchards up here anyway.

W. B. STEPHENS, *Owen Sound.*

EDITOR: See article on this subject, page 120. We would advise a thorough spraying with Paris green water, 4 ounces to 40 gallons of water, separate from the Bordeaux mixture.

### That Fumigation Business.

SIR,—In the April number you publish the recent amendment of the San Jose Scale Act.

Clauses 3 and 4 prohibit the removal or sale of any plant from any nursery without fumigation in a manner prescribed. The last clause prohibits the removal of any plants from any nursery where the inspector finds scale, "until the inspector reports to the minister that it is safe in the public interest to permit the said nursery stock to be removed after fumigation." How is this? Why restrict the nursery business to those able to furnish fumigating plants, if it is inefficient? I am also curious to know how the possibly scaley stock of the last clause is rendered harmless if fumigation won't do it.

ADAM RUSSELL, *Mahara, Ont.*

### A Seedling Apple.

SIR,—I sent you last week by mail a seedling apple of our own production to see what you thought of it; I believe it will turn out to be fine winter apple.

It is a good keeper. I had about six last fall and I just put them on a plate in the cellar and they kept fine. I tried one or two at different times through the winter and I find they are not fit to use till toward spring.

I had about a peck the fall of '97; the tree bears early and is a very rapid grower, and to all appearances is going to be a good bearer.

JOHN STEWART,

Per G. Stewart,

Benmiller.

### Apple Inspection.

SIR,—I have followed with very much interest your articles in the May and June numbers of the "HORTICULTURIST," with regard to dishonest apple packing in which you certainly are on the right track in advocating that the apples be subject to inspection, and also to confiscation when not up to grade. That this evil has grown to such enormous dimensions as to require legislative interference is evident, but why limit the inspection to apples for export only? Is the Canadian consumer of no account?

I bought a barrel of exceeding fine looking Northern Spy apples from a dealer in Montreal about the beginning of April last, paying him \$4.75 for them. The top two or three layers were as fine Spys as you could wish to see; below that the barrel was simply filled with rubbish. I kept the head of the barrel which I send you by prepaid express to-night along with the paper cover over the apples, and four of the apples which I have managed to keep from decaying. You will see by the packer's name and address being upon the head and thus certifying the apples to be "choice Canadian apples" "Gilt Edge" and "X X X," that the intention was well calculated to deceive. The apples in this barrel were not worth over \$1.00 to any one who would have bought them at all.

I assure you in all seriousness that if the Ontario apple growers do not speedily devise some means to remedy such contemptible thieving, that their pockets will very soon suffer. I, for one, intend to boycott all Ontario apples in future unless some reasonable system of inspection is devised to protect the Canadian as well as the British consumer; do you think I will be the only one to do so?

Now, I am not a fruit grower, but it seems to me that a thoroughly efficient system of inspection could be instituted which would render such detestable work practically impossible, but I think the scheme should first be formulated by the apple growers and packers themselves rather than wait for the Government to do so.

What would you think of forming an "Ontario Apple Growers' and Packers' Association," to be incorporated with extensive powers? The character of such association to be granted to say 10 or 20 of your best growers and packers, whose reputation is unquestioned. Admission to the Association to be secured by filling up a form of application, agreeing to abide by the rules and regu