

steamship men understood it as the fan system. He had been over some of the Beaver line steamers in which they were putting in the fall system and introducing the air through all the different decks. This had been done already in three of their vessels, and from what he had seen of it would be a perfect success. He believed it was the best thing he had seen yet, and that it would fully meet their requirements in the way of keeping up a sufficient circulation of cold air to preserve their fruits in good condition. They had also offered to give them through bills of lading from any point of shipment in Ontario to any point inland, or otherwise in Great Britain or on the continent, and were really doing all they could to meet their demands. They had also agreed to issue bills of lading upon their own account, and not on the shipper's account as heretofore. They had only been able to secure this advantage in sections where there was railway competition, when they had no competition to deal with one road absolutely refused to give them under any circumstances. It was a fact that fruit via New York by special trains was passed through much quicker than by the Canadian system of ordinary freight trains. The express companies had been spoken of. It was quite suf-

ficient for him to point to one instance regarding the handling by express companies. The Dominion Government at the time of the Indian and Colonial exhibition paid the express companies high rates for the purpose of having fruits intended for that exhibition carried with extra care. The fruits were put up in neat packages easy to handle but notwithstanding all their precautions they found that in the handling the soft fruits were smashed almost to pieces. Out of two tons they could only get just sufficient to make a display on the table. In a good many varieties they could not even get this. The whole thing was a disaster as far as the express companies were concerned. They had suggested to the railway companies a remedy that would completely get rid of the damage in shunting. It was by introducing what they called in England "buffers" between the cars, which would obviate the damage inflicted by shunting. The freight train system would then be satisfactory.

He thought the other steamship companies would follow the example of the Beaver line, and in that case they would not ship via New York at all as they preferred to deal with their own Canadian lines.—*Montreal Gazette*.

## OPEN LETTERS.

### Grenville, P. Q.

THE Ostheim Cherry distributed by F. G. A. Ont., duly reached me, though in my absence. It was carefully planted, and is doing well. My Russian Cherries are bearing a few cherries this year. A good many of my Rus. Apples are also bearing a few fruit. Most of the sorts stand well and are vigorous growers. Some Duchess Apples were *root frozen* on sandy soil where the snow blows off. Promise of plenty fruit of all kinds this season.

With regards yours truly,  
June 19th, 1888. ROBT. HAMILTON.

### Retirement of Mr Garfield.

THANK you kindly for sending me your paper for the many years I have been Secretary, as an exchange for our volumes and bulletins. Failing health has compelled me to retire from active work and may I ask you to continue the exchange, changing the address to Edwy C. Reid, Allegan, Mich., my successor in office. I can assure you that Mr. Reid will be always ready to give you information, and fully reciprocate any courtesies you may extend to him.

Yours truly,

CHAS. W. GARFIELD, *Secretary*.

MICHIGAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY,  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., June 19th, 1888.

### The Walnut.

*The Editor HORTICULTURIST.*

SIR,—After the question of Walnuts in this climate was spoken of, Mr. Gibb suggested a possible difficulty which should not be overlooked. He says that although the trees will grow and mature its fruit the wood may not be fully developed and may prove unfit for manufacturing purposes.

His well known and very exact observation of the natural history and growth of fruit bearing trees causes us to regard his opinion on this subject with respect. It is so well known that apple trees of all sorts are carried to their extreme climatic limit, and beyond it until they fail to produce fruit or wood, it will likely be found that the wood will not be sound, even at the limit where good fruit is produced. This can be easily observed, and of course applies to all trees. Walnut, catalpa and other trees are on trial in places where they are known to be hardy, and in view of the many new plantations proposed the success of these trees is worthy of all attention. T. M. GROVER.

NORWOOD, 16 July, 1888.

### Fruits in Western Ontario. Death of Mr. James Dougall.

SIR,—I send you another name for membership to your Society, that of a gentleman who has put out over thirty acres in grapes this spring.