

* Open Letters. *

THE SHAFFER.

SIR,—The Shaffer raspberries which you sent with the CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST, have grown splendidly. The plants were set out in the spring, and the tips layered towards fall, twenty of them taking root. These I planted out this spring, so now have twenty-four large bushes which have given me some good-sized berries this summer. I do not think they are as good as the Cuthbert in flavor, but I never saw bushes make a better growth of wood.

ABRAHAM HALE, *Seaforth, Ont.*

USEFUL ANTS.

SIR,—Your correspondent, Mr. W. Dempsey (page 220), is, I fear, a one-eyed observer. Most likely the ants which he wishes to destroy are killing leaf pests upon his fruit trees. Ants have their own place in the economy of nature, and I have found them doing good work when the man they were helping wished me to aid him in their destruction.

R. W., *Winnipeg.*

↻ Our Markets. ↻

APPLES.—According to reports from all our markets, fall apples have a very dull sale. Fall fruit has been sold in Montreal at from \$1.25 to \$1.40 per barrel, and in New York City, fancy red winter apples, such as Kings, have sold as high as \$2.50 per barrel. The advice from most quarters is to hold back the best winter fruit and late-keeping fall apples as late as possible, until the soft and inferior fruit is cleared out of the markets. Reports from England are somewhat to the same effect, and indicate that there is a large crop of summer and fall apples in Great Britain. After these are cleared out, the prospect is that Canadian apples of a fine quality will do well. Messrs. Wood, Ormerod & Co., of Edinburgh, who advertise with us, send us a code, according to which they intend sending us cablegrams of the prices of apples in Edinburgh. They say that at present only United States' fruit is being put on their markets and making, Kings, 19s. to 24s.; Maiden's Blush, 20s. to 22s.; Baldwins, 16s. to 18s. The quality of the apples thus quoted is fair to good, very little of it prime fruit. J. C. Houghton, of Liverpool, cables, under date of September 23rd, Kings, \$4.35 to \$5.82; Baldwins, \$3.40 to \$4.83; Greenings, \$2.91 to \$4.12. Messrs. James Lindsay & Son, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Leith, cable, Kings, \$4.38 to \$5.82; Blush, \$3.90 to \$5.35; Cranberry Pippins, \$4.38 to \$5.82; Greenings, \$2.92 to \$3.85. The *Trade Bulletin*, of Montreal, says that a few contracts for apples have been made by Western men at from \$1 to \$1.23, on the tree. The New York *Fruit Trade Bulletin* is of the opinion that the shortage in apples in New York and Michigan, will be fully made up by the enormous crop in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, so that the prices will not run very high in America.

PEARS.—According to the New York *Fruit Bulletin*, the pear crop in the Eastern States is simply enormous, and, consequently, the prices ruling in the principal cities of the States has been the lowest on record, reaching as low as from \$1 to \$2 for merchantable fruit. Under these circumstances the transportation companies get nearly all the money, leaving very little for the producer. Fortunately, we have done a little better in Canada, and yet, considering that our crop has been not much over half the average, and that the quality has been extra fine, growers cannot help feeling inclined to grumble. Probably, now that early pears are over, our markets for late pears will improve.

GRAPES.—These have ripened up all at once this season, and nearly all varieties are ready for shipping. This, in addition to the fact that much green fruit has been pushed forward, is causing a temporary glut in all our markets. There is no doubt that the grape