

THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

article gives a view of an effort made a short time ago on the part of a number of large shippers at St. Catharines to avail themselves of the facilities which presented themselves, whereby shippers might co-operate together and take advantage of the freight service, shipping their fruits in car lots under one management, and thus secure better and more careful handling and satisfactory despatch. Up to the season of 1895 all fruit had been transported either by express or boat, or else by the ordinary local freight in small lots; the objections to these methods seemed to be high rates in the one case, infrequency of boats in another, and slow service and poor handling in the third instance. It was thought by a number of shippers that by loading a full car load from time to time when the circumstances of the case would admit of it, that it would be an object for the railroads to give rapid transit, and being loaded by the shippers themselves, the fruit would have careful handling, and should arrive at destination in good order; and with carload rates the cost would be somewhat reduced. The frontispiece shows a scene at the N. C. R. Depot, St. Catharines, which was of almost daily occurrence during the early fall of 1895, some thirty-five or forty cars being thus loaded during that year with very satisfactory results.

Since that time the carload shipments have increased very rapidly, until in

1897 some 350 or more cars were shipped via G. T. R., N. C. R. and C. P. R., to the various large centres of Canada and the United States. During 1898 owing to the failure in some lines of fruit the business was not so extensive.

The result of these efforts has been to show the shippers the necessity of some organization among themselves, whereby this work can be carried on in a systematic, business-like manner.

Consequently, a Stock Company was formed in the spring of 1888, for this particular object, called "The St Catharines Cold Storage and Forwarding Co., Ltd.," with a capital stock of \$10,000, in shares of ten dollars each. This company has been in existence but little over a year and bids fair to be a very great success. The company contemplates erecting in time for this season's business a modern cold storage warehouse, operated by mechanical refrigeration, they have also a large ice house of their own from which to ice refrigerator cars during the hot weather, and will be prepared to receive, store, and forward all kinds of fruits to any point according to the wish of the shipper.

We congratulate our St. Catharines friends on the efforts that they are putting forth to solve the problem of cheaper and more satisfactory transportation.

W. H. BUNTING.

St Catharines.

ONE of the neatest shrubs for forming a hedge is the California privet; it makes a very neat, dense-foliage plant, and bears any amount of clipping into shape. Another beautiful shrub for the same purpose is the Japanese barberry, *Berberis Thunbergii*. This is handsome

at all seasons, bearing a number of coral red berries, which hang on well into the winter, if the birds do not devour them all. In the autumn the foliage turns a bright, deep red. It is broad and compact in its growth.