

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

MR. J. F. SEARS, B.H., has accepted an engagement with the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association. Mr. Sears is a graduate of the Iowa Agricultural College, Ames, Iowa, and will take up the work as director of the Nova Scotia School of Horticulture at Wolfville. Professor Faville, who has had charge of the work for some years, and who has been very successful, resigned last summer to take up similar work at one of the leading American experiment stations.

THAT GREAT FRENCH PRESERVING PROCESS which was so lauded by interested persons at the World's Fair, consists according to Prof. Saunders, chiefly in the use of sulphur. Recently also a package of the powder was examined at the Indiana Experiment Station, and the compound was found to contain sulphur, charcoal, nitrate of soda, cane sugar, and common salt; thus:—

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| Cane sugar, | 14.20 per cent. |
| Salt, | 1.42 " |
| Nitrate of soda, | 1.36 " |
| Sulphur, | 57.63 " |
| Charcoal, moisture and insoluble matter, | 25.64 " |

The essentials of the directions for the use of this material were that the compound should be burned in a closed space and the fumes arising from the burning be absorbed by water placed in suitable vessels, and that the fruit in some cases should also be exposed to the fumes. Finally the fruit was to be placed in the water which had absorbed the fumes of the burning compound and the vessel closed. The burning of the compound would result in the production of sulphur dioxide, also known as sulphurous acid, as one product, and it is this substance which exerts the preservative action in the process. The

other ingredients are merely to aid in the burning of the sulphur.

This sulphur dioxide is an intensely poisonous gas and its use prohibited as a food preservative in European countries. When the gas is absorbed by water sulphurous acid, a powerful therapeutic agent, is formed. There is no doubt that its preservative action will be effective, for it is one of the best antiseptic and bleaching agents. But there are grave objections to the indiscriminate use of powerful therapeutic agents in food. The parties having the material and rights for sale state that the material or process is covered by a patent. On inquiry at the U. S. patent office it was learned that the patent with the number said to belong to this process was issued for some sort of machinery and had no relation to this subject.

THE BRITISH WEEKLY has it that Mr. Kipling has not changed his opinion of the Canadian climate in spite of the endless exclamatory periods after "Our Lady of the Snows." It would seem that he is indeed wedded to his idols, for he has contributed the following skit to "Wee Willie Winkie," the juvenile periodical edited by Lady Marjorie Gordon, the daughter of Lord Aberdeen:—

"There was once a small boy of Quebec,
Who was buried in snow to the neck.
When asked: 'Are you friz?'
He replied: 'Yes, I is,
But we don't call this cold in Quebec.'"

PROGRAMMES are out for the meeting of our Association at Waterloo, on the 15th and 16th, and may be had on application to the Secretary at Grimsby. A large and important meeting is expected.