

## \* Open Letters. \*

### Cost of Living in Paris, France.

I do wish something could be done to bring Canadian fruit and other products more before the British public than is the case now. Here in Paris we find things very high. The following will give you some idea of what the cost of living is: Meat 26c.; butter 35c.; milk 8c. a quart; coal oil 56c. a gallon; coffee, best, 70c. a lb.; tea \$1.20 a lb.; sugar 12c. a lb.; bread 3½c. a lb.; pork 24c. to 26c. a lb.; this is given you in our currency. I notice you are having cold weather in Canada; here we have not had it very cold, but we feel the cold, damp air more than your severe dry cold.

JOHN PENMAN, *Paris, France.*

### Last Season's Experience with Fruit.

Our land here lies immediately on the northern margin of lake Ontario, the influence of which appears to make vegetation at least ten days more backward than on land even only half a mile further back. This told largely in our favor when the sharp frosts between May 13th and 22nd (on four nights of which the thermometer, 5 feet from the ground dropped to 25°, 29°, 27° and 29°) come upon us; as our apple, pear and plum trees and grape vines suffered less than those even a short distance inland, where the crops were almost entirely destroyed owing to their more advanced state. On our pear and plum trees the blossom afterwards opened apparently all right, but close inspection of the more exposed showed many of the fertilizing organs blackened, thus thinning the crop considerably. Though a sheltered block of Lombard plum trees, afterwards fruited so heavily that notwithstanding attempts at supporting the branches many of them gave way under the weight of fruit; and many pear trees, especially Flemish Beauty, offered a good crop in the neighbourhood. A few of the shoots on the lower branches of the grape vines were damaged, but still we harvested at least three quarters of a crop of unusually fine grapes. Strawberries, usually a leading crop here, suffered largely. From a plot which the previous year gave us close on 7,000 quarts, we picked this year an additional 2,000 quarts. Raspberries and blackcaps produced a fair crop of fine fruit. The few bearing peach trees, which the last year had given us a fair crop, had not a fruit. As for apples the orchards in this neighbourhood for a mile or so from the lake shore, have seldom yielded so good a crop of perfect fruit, while in orchards a few miles further north there was practically none. The result of spraying plum trees and grape vines was very satisfactory. I cannot agree with Mr. E. B. Stevenson, in your January issue, as to Parker Earle strawberry. Here, of Parker Earle, Bubach, Jessie, Warefield, Haverland, Michel's Early, Williams, Woolverton, Burt, Enhance, Gandy and Lovett, the first two named gave the best result. Sturdy old Crescent made a good showing with Michel's Early substitute for Wilson as a fertilizing companion in several neighboring patches, and appears to be an old reliable variety under adverse circumstances.

ARTHUR G. HEAVEN, *Oakville.*

### Himalayan Apricot.

In the CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST for 1892, page 106, is an account of the Uruick Apricot. This must be the same little apricot I found so common at the villages among the Himalayan Mountains in Cashmere, and up the Upper Ganges Valley, between Mussorie and Gangotrie. It is about an inch or so in diameter and of pleasant flavor and ripens early. I had ripe fruit in June. I remember when coming out of Cashmere, I found both mulberries and apricots ripe. This was about the 3rd week in June. As the winters are severe in these mountainous regions (it was at a 10,000 ft. elevation I saw them at one place), I think they would be suitable for Canada. I think the natives only propagate them by sowing the seed, and if you could get the stones of the fruit it would be worth while trying them here. Through the Canadian Government and the Indian Government, this might be done, and they would be readily sent through such application. The dealers from Afghanistan bring down lots of dried apricots, whether the same or some other species,