

THE YELLOW HELMET BEETLE.

SIR,—I send you a tin box of beetles which I have found for the first time on my sweet potato plants. They eat numerous holes in the leaves. Are they new to this country, and what can I use to destroy them?

THOS. BOON, *Bothwell, Ont.*

Since your specimens came to hand we have found the same beetle riddling with holes the leaves of our Morning Glories. It is not a new enemy. Mr. Fletcher, Dominion Entomologist, says it is the Yellow Helmet Beetle, *coptocycla aurichalcea*, a common pest of the sweet potato, and other members of the Convolvulus family; and that a weak solution of Paris green is the best remedy.

* Open Letters. *

THE ZINC TRAYS.

In reading the paper on this evaporating of fruit, in the last report, I observed what difficulty the zinc from the use of galvanized wire was causing in Hamburg and other foreign parts, prejudicing the trade in evaporated fruits. I have thought over the matter since and have concluded that if the wire netting for use in evaporators were treated to a glazing process, instead of being galvanized it would overcome the difficulty completely. I fancy it could be managed. I mean to make it like the iron utensils (pots, saucepans, etc.) called "granite ware," which you no doubt have seen.

W. H. WYLIE, *Carleton Place, Ont.*

PRICKLY COMFREY.

SIR,—With reference to Mr. N. J. Clinton's letter in this month's issue, I regret that his horses and cows were so obdurate in their refusal to eat his prickly comfrey after the trouble and expense he had incurred in growing it. Here we have now nearly got to the end of our second cutting of it for this season. All our milch cows and young stock (20 head in all, and 7 of our 9 horses ate it readily, and the pigs avail themselves of any opportunity to get at it. The two horses which do not care for it are old animals and probably too fixed in their habits to take to such a change from their accustomed diet. The more I see of it the more I am convinced that it is one of the most useful and best paying of forage crops; and my sole object in advocating its cultivation is to induce others to avail themselves of the benefit open to them. I have had the pleasure of distributing a good many root cuttings during the past spring, to enable applicants unable to procure them elsewhere, to make a start in its cultivation, but in all cases I declined to accept any money payment.

I state this simply for the purpose of showing that I am not seeking any gain to myself in recommending others to try it, and I feel the more urged to take upon myself its advocacy as it is not a crop the professional seedsmen are likely to push into prominence, and as, being permanent when once planted, it supersedes to some extent other crops, to grow which would require an annual application to the seedsmen for seed, with the consequent payments of the bill for the same. Perhaps Mr. Clinton put his horses and cows in pasture before feeding the comfrey to them, which is a course, he will see on referring to my former letter, I advise should not be adopted.

June 13th, 1891.

ARTHUR GEO. HEAVEN, *Boyne, Ont.*