

# Open Letters

## FRUIT GROWING IN QUEBEC

WORK ON JUDGE CARON'S FARM—  
BLACK KNOT—WINTER PROTECTION

A LETTER FROM H. P. CARON, L'ISLET, QUE.

SIR,—I always read your journal with the greatest interest. As the following might prove useful to some of your readers I will report on the crop of fruit for the lower part of the Province of Quebec. We have had a great deal of rain, almost every day. Also, in my orchard, where there are about 3000 trees, I have not seen caterpillars more than two or three times. I sprayed this spring with Paris green  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. to about 24 gallons of water mixed with one pound of lime. The strawberries have done very well, they are the James Vick and Sharpless, cultivated in rows 3 feet by 4. They fruited in great quantities, were free from all kind of diseases, but I must say they were very acid. I consider this due to the heavy rains. Our gooseberry bushes were overloaded. We cultivate in single rows, one single row between the apple trees, 6 feet apart. They are the "Smith Improved." We never have mildew. I spray with Paris green once in the beginning of June and once after the crop is removed. At the end of August I have a heavy pruning performed, removing the smaller shoots, only leaving two new shoots and cutting away the two oldest branches, which have been fruiting (this is the renewal system), and shorten the end of all the long branches. This gives great force to the gooseberry bushes, lets the air freely in, prevents the spread of diseases and the hatching of caterpillars. We sold the gooseberries from 20 to 30c. a gallon.

The raspberries were very plentiful—White, "The Golden Queen," red, Cuthbert and Marlboro. They took a first prize at the late Universal Exposition at Paris. We cultivate in rows 6 feet both ways. The fruit was not as firm as usual, due to the rain. The blackberries are covered with fruit. Our cherry trees were a great success, some trees of nine years old giving 10 gallons and more; but I cannot say how much a tree produces really, because we are surrounded by a lot of poor people who eat freely of our fruit, not being invited to do so. In about 500 cherry trees I found this summer not more than 10 or 12 black knots; but I must say that our plum trees are terribly affected by the black knot. The trees are loaded with plums. As soon as the fruit is picked I shall cut off and burn all the knots, and spray with a  $\frac{1}{4}$  pound of Paris green to 24 gallons of water, with one pint of petrol oil. All the trunks of our trees have been washed with the same preparation. I think that the very wet weather has much to do with this disease, the knots are different from those of the cherry trees. The plum trees to look at seem in perfect health. Our potatoes this year are very good and yielding immensely, being planted on sandy hills; but our cucumbers and melons are a complete failure. Last year we had some melons of the best quality, the only covering given was a thin cotton sheet at night. Our flowers are sad to look on, and we must