

HOUSE OF COMMONS,  
COMMITTEE ROOM 34,  
WEDNESDAY, April 2, 1902.

The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization met here this day at ten o'clock a.m., the Chairman, Mr. Legris, presiding.

Dr. James Fletcher, Entomologist and Botanist, of the Dominion Experimental Farms, was present by recall, and submitted the following evidence :—

THE SAN JOSE SCALE,—REMEDIES.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I would remind you that there has been rather a break in my evidence. I have already given part of what I have to say before the Committee. I dealt rather fully with the San José Scale question, showing that, although this insect must still be considered the worst insect we have ever had to deal with, the investigations by provincial and federal officers have been attended with a certain amount of success, so that we can to-day say, that there are three practical remedies which, although not thoroughly satisfactory, are so hopeful at any rate, that we may before long discover some treatment which will be satisfactory to all concerned. In the meantime these remedies which consist of spraying the trees with crude petroleum or with whale-oil soap or fumigating them with hydrocyanic acid gas, are giving paying results and it is worth while for all fruit growers to know what these remedies are. They are all detailed in the report of the Division of Entomology and Botany, printed in the general report of the experimental farms for last year. The effect of using these remedies of whale-oil soap and crude petroleum will be beneficial for many other insects and fungous diseases than those which I have indicated. The application of these remedies to trees, however, will require a certain amount of care and knowledge, and every effort is being put forth to help the farmers and fruit growers to use these remedies, with due care, so as to obtain satisfactory results. Now, as to the area infested by the San José Scale in Canada, the general statement may be made that there has been no great increase of those areas which were infested last year, although the insect has increased somewhat within those areas, and we have reason to believe that if the measures which have been advised and are being carried out by the Ontario Government are maintained, no increase in this insect will be reported. Moreover, great care has been taken by the Federal Government to prevent further introduction into the country of infested nursery stock, and the spread of the insect by this means. At the same time the provincial government is fully alive to the necessity of watching it carefully and continuously. Ontario is the only province where the scale occurs. The provincial inspectors of orchards and nurseries are doing their work in an excellent manner, and I believe everything possible is being done to stamp out this pest.

THE PEA WEEVIL.

The insect of next importance in Canada, and of which I spoke at some length at the last meeting of the Committee, is the Pea Weevil, better known under the name of the 'Pea Bug.' I do not hesitate at all to say that this insect is far more abundant than ought or needs to be the case. Its habits are thoroughly well known, and articles giving the best remedies have been published from time to time, in the newspapers, in the government reports, and the reports of this Committee, as well as in all the