

THE DESTRUCTIVE INSECT AND PEST ACT, AND REGULATIONS ISSUED THEREUNDER.

In May, 1910, Parliament passed 'An Act to prevent the introduction or spreading of Insects, Pests and Diseases destructive to vegetation.' The danger of the introduction of injurious insects, pests and plant diseases is probably greater in Canada than in any other country. This is due to the fact that, owing to the rapid development and opening up of the country, a large amount of vegetation of all kinds, trees, shrubs, seedlings, etc., is imported into Canada from countries in various parts of the world. All this vegetation, collectively termed 'nursery stock,' is liable to be infested with insects and other pests and diseases which do not occur in Canada. Introduced in this manner, however, they become established in many instances. The serious effects of the establishment of introduced insects in a new country are enormously increased by the fact that their chief means of control in their native countries, namely, their natural parasites, are not usually brought with them. Their tendency, therefore, is to increase, as the Gipsy and Brown-tail Moths are increasing in the United States. In Canada a number of introduced insects have already established themselves and, in certain cases have been the cause of very great losses. The San José Scale, originally introduced into the United States, was first recorded in Canada about 1894; the Brown-tail Moth, introduced into the State of Massachusetts about 1890 from Europe, was discovered in Nova Scotia in 1907; the Narcissus Fly, which would appear to be a native of Europe, has been introduced into British Columbia and Ontario on bulbs from Holland. Numerous other instances of the introduction of injurious insects into Canada and their subsequent spread might be adduced, indicating this danger to which we are exposed.

The introduction of the San José Scale and the previous experience of its destructive powers in the United States were responsible for the passage of the San José Scale Act in 1898, which prohibited the importation of nursery stock from countries in which the scale occurred. In 1901, by an Order in Council, fumigation stations were established at six Customs ports through which stock was allowed to enter at certain periods of the year after having been fumigated with hydro-cyanic acid gas. Certain classes of stock, not likely to be infested with San José Scale, were exempt from fumigation.

Beyond this power to fumigate certain classes of nursery stock at six of the ports of entry, the Federal Government had no authority to take further action with a view to preventing the introduction of further insect pests and the spreading of these or of pests already in Canada. In 1909, winter webs of the Brown-tail Moth were found in shipments of nursery stock from France and as this insect was already established itself in Nova Scotia, it was important that the Minister should have the necessary powers to prevent the introduction of the pest into those parts of Canada not already infested. Accordingly, the Destructive Insect and Pest Act was passed under which regulations could be made providing for the prohibition of entry, and for the