

COMMITTEE ROOM No. 46,

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

FRIDAY, 13th May, 1898.

The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization met this day at 11 o'clock a.m., Mr. Bain, Chairman, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN :—We have with us this morning Dr. Fletcher, Entomologist to the Experimental Farms. I introduce him to you.

Mr. FLETCHER:—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—There are many subjects connected with the Entomologist's work which cannot, for lack of time, be treated of now before the Committee. I can only refer to some of the most important subjects. The one of the greatest importance, in that legislation has been enacted during the present Session concerning it, is the San José Scale.

THE SAN JOSE SCALE IN CANADA.

This insect had been discovered in the western part of Ontario early last year, and owing to the known injurious nature of this pest and the rapidity with which it had spread during the year in infested Canadian orchards, some measures were necessary to prevent the further introduction of the insect and to provide for its destruction wherever discovered. Four years ago the San José Scale was discovered in British Columbia and prompt action was taken by Mr. Palmer, of the Department of Agriculture of British Columbia, to have it stamped out. I was sent there by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture to investigate the matter, on account of its importance, and found that Mr. Palmer had done his work so thoroughly that there was no trace of the Scale to be found at the time of my visit. The frequent intercourse between British Columbian fruit growers and those of California and Oregon, and the large amount of nursery stock imported from these States have resulted in the pest being introduced again into British Columbia. In December, 1896, undoubted specimens of it were sent to me by Mr. Palmer. Early last spring I found through one of my correspondents, that the Scale occurred in injurious numbers near Chatham, Ontario. The matter was at once attended to and inquiries set on foot as to the occurrence of the Scale in other parts of Ontario. During the month of June last the Minister sent me to the Niagara district to examine one of the large orchards which was found to be infested. Several leading fruit growers accompanied me to the orchard of Mr. C. Thonger, at Niagara. Professor Panton, of Guelph, was also invited to come with us. We examined Mr. Thonger's trees and held a meeting in the orchard. We found that the scale had spread through Mr. Thonger's orchard during the previous season and had increased enormously on trees which had been found infested the year before. I was deputed by the Minister to explain to the fruit growers present what the nature of this insect was, and also to take their views as to what they thought were the wisest measures to adopt with regard to it. The Ontario Government has been taking active steps to have this pest stamped out. An inspector of spraying has been appointed, viz., Mr. W. M. Orr, of Fruitland, Ontario, who has pushed the inspection of the orchards of the province energetically during the