

There is another kind of canker worm, the moths of which lay their eggs in the spring instead of the autumn, but I need not trouble you about that because the treatments for both are similar. The method which has been adopted in Nova Scotia, and is a favourite remedy there, is to paint a band of some viscid material round the tree, such as printers' ink and oil, or a mixture of castor oil and resin, which will remain viscid for some time. This is done in order to catch the spider-like female moths, which climb up the trees to lay their eggs. If the moths cannot pass, no eggs are laid on the tree, and no caterpillars can appear the next year.

In Ontario the general practice has been to spray with Paris green or some other of the arsenites, and it has always been my experience that spraying the trees with Paris green at the time the young caterpillars were on them, is by far the best remedy. I could not understand, then, why it was that many of the practical men in Nova Scotia, whom I knew were reliable, should keep on saying, "the best remedy is banding the trees." It certainly is more expensive and involves a great deal more trouble. I found by making enquiries, and after a good deal of correspondence, that the difference was this: that in Nova Scotia the trees are very much larger, as a rule, than they are in Ontario, and it is a very different matter spraying a tree of 20 feet high, to spraying one of 35 or 45 feet high. With the smaller trees the apparatus which we have is quite useful and suitable, in fact answers all purposes for spraying a tree, we will say, 20 feet high. By raising the nozzle of the spraying pump on a light pole it is not too long to be conveniently handled and it can be raised sufficiently high to throw the spray over the trees. If you add another 10 feet, however, the additional height makes it a very inconvenient and troublesome operation, it is so much more inconvenient, in fact, that the work is only partly done or left undone altogether; therefore, this other remedy of painting the trees, where they are too large to spray easily, is quite effective.

On account of the natural life history of the canker worm, in that it has no wings and cannot fly, but must crawl up the trees before the eggs can be deposited, if we put an insuperable obstacle in its way, the female is destroyed below that, or can be kept from getting on the trees to lay her eggs. This fact accounted for one of the difficulties which I could not understand until I had inquired into the matter very carefully. We have, therefore, two remedies for this insect, which must be adopted according to the circumstances of the operator. In Ontario, therefore, a systematic spraying is the best remedy, but in Nova Scotia the trees are too high to be conveniently sprayed thoroughly, therefore the method of banding must be added to that of spraying. Statements very frequently appear in the newspapers that are not entirely accurate. The writers of these articles of course have not a special knowledge of many things they write upon, but they do the best they can. A very slight inaccuracy, however, may have very serious results, and statements are made in the newspapers sometimes quite misleading. Many such statements have appeared about this very matter.

*By Mr. Cochrane:*

Q. Do trees grow more quickly in Nova Scotia?—A. The trees in Nova Scotia orchards are older than we have in most parts of Ontario, although we have some very old trees. Around Lake Erie in particular there are some very old pear and apple trees. I think that in Ontario there has been a different method of pruning adopted in growing fruit trees and many new varieties have been introduced in the young orchards. The climate in Nova Scotia is certainly exceedingly favourable for the advantageous culture and development of apples, and when they have secured good varieties they have kept them up. The same trees by being taken care of have lived a long time. I have no doubt though, that it could be done in Ontario, but I think we have in this province more new and young orchards than they have in Nova Scotia.

Q. Do you know how the trees in Nova Scotia are propagated, whether from the root or from the stalk?—A. The methods of propagation adopted there are just the same as we pursue in Ontario.

Q. You do not think there is anything in the theory that they are shorter lived from being grafted in the root?—A. Mr. Craig has studied that matter very carefully