

The old sods offer protection against birds which devour them. Therefore it is not safe to plant strawberries in newly plowed sod. It is better to occupy the ground with some crop which requires considerable hoeing and cultivation for at least two years before planting to strawberries. This gives the birds a chance to clear the ground of this pest.

Birds themselves are exceedingly troublesome to the small grower during the fruiting season, and they seem to be decidedly partial to the finest specimens. On the first sign of ripen-

ing, I place pieces of newspaper under the clusters to protect them from the bugs in the ground and inverted strawberry boxes on top to protect them from the birds. In this way only could I save my best berries. It means work, but one always feels well repaid for the extra labor which this protection involves.

The small grower can usually supply water during dry weather, and it should never be withheld if it is possible to apply it. A good soaking twice a week in the evening is far better than a sprinkling every day.

The Roadside Problem

Prof. E. M. Straight, Maine A. C., formerly of Macdonald College, Que.

A FEW days ago I cut a fairly representative twig from a wild cherry tree in the town of South Portland, Me. It was a roadside specimen, gnarled, broken, and growing in the gutter. The illustration shows that the twig contained six egg masses of the tent caterpillar, two nests of the brown-tail moth, one fire-blight, and one black-knot. Thousands of dollars are being spent year by year in trying to rid the orchards in the vicinity of the dreaded brown-tail moth and other pests. Best results here or elsewhere need never be hoped for so long as the roadsides are allowed to remain the common breeding ground of all enemies of the farm and garden.

The nest to the right appeared like that shown in the second illustration, after being kept in the office for a few days. It will be seen that there are two or three hundred caterpillars crawling on the outside of the nest. Egg-masses of the forest-tent or the American caterpillar contain two or three hundred

eggs. We may only guess at the number of spores produced by that knot and blight. Certainly that twig possesses mighty potentialities inimical to the best interests of the orchardist this coming season.

When attempts are made to clean up the roadsides, it has amused us to note the care taken to save the bush, even if necessary to completely dehorn it. If the axe were laid at the root of the tree it would be the easiest and most satisfactory form of solution.

The caterpillar of the brown-tail moth has, when young, the "spinning down" habit, and is transported by vehicles and pedestrians. New centres of infestation may be set up thus, many miles from the original.

Weeds in the roadside fence corners, borers in the fence poles, and caterpillars on wayside bushes form a combination not short of a menace to the farm community.

When the farmer accepts the roadside problem as his own, and cleans it up he



A Nest of the Tent Caterpillar

will strike a blow at insect pests and fungous diseases which will eventually count for much on the cultivated areas of the farm. Governments and municipalities cannot be expected to do the work. It is the farmer's problem, and not until the farmer accepts the road passing through his farm as a part of his farm will the problem be solved.

When the winter approaches the farmer draws a long breath. He feels that for a few months at least he may relax his efforts. Insect injury is about over for the time, but efforts toward insect control should never cease. When trees are bare and insects dormant much may be done. Mechanical methods of killing insects must not be neglected. It must be evident that a man can do more effectual work on the twig in the illustration mechanically now than by waiting and applying any amount of poisoned sprays later.

An apple-twig borer may be cut out, scales on a tree trunk may be scraped off, and a thousand other little devices attended to, which accomplish the work sought quickly and effectually.

Methods Which Have Won Success

R. S. Ducas, R. S. A., Port Hope, Ont.

Mr. G. H. Martyn and Son, fruit growers, of Fairview Farm, Port Hope, have demonstrated what can be done in the way of successful farming. Twelve years ago, Mr. Martyn bought his present farm, which was then practically abandoned. The buildings were almost a complete wreck. To-day the farm is one of the most complete to be found in Ontario, the buildings have been remodelled, the land is in a high state of cultivation, and eight to nine acres of new orchard have been planted, making a total of thirteen to fourteen acres in all. Mr. Martyn attributes his



Roadside Trees Like These are a Menace to the Fruit Industry

This illustration, secured by Prof. E. M. Straight, of a wild cherry tree shows six egg masses of the tent caterpillar, two nests of the brown tail moth, one fire-blight and one black knot.