

should be tied tightly in the middle. Each caterpillar is furnished with four pairs of fleshy prolegs, which are fringed with small horny hooks, and on its trying to pass over the cotton these hooks get so entangled in the fibres, that its further progress becomes very difficult and is seldom persisted in."

Fortunately, Dame Nature has the best remedy, and when an insect becomes very abundant, she usually provides a parasite to keep it in check; she has several ready for this tent caterpillar, so that in a year or two we may expect to see them cleared out without our assistance.

THE SCALE ACT.

A VERY important meeting of fruit growers was held at Grimsby on June 16th, under the auspices of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, to consider the present delay on the part of the Department of Agriculture carrying out the provisions of the San Jose Scale Act, which was passed at the request of our Ontario Fruit Growers two years ago.

It seems that there are only three or four sections in the province, and those near the border, in which the scale has been found. The whole of the infested sections put together would not exceed twenty miles square, and the Act if vigorously enforced will soon clear out the whole thing. Two delegations from the sections have called on the Minister of Agriculture and asked that the Act be suspended so as to save their orchards, and in response the Department has temporarily suspended the Act and appointed a Commission to look into the whole question, consisting of Dr. Mills, of the O. A. C., Guelph; John Dearness, of London, and W. H. Bunting, of St. Catharines.

Mr. Geo. E. Fisher, of Burlington, the Inspector, was present at the meeting on invitation and gave much valuable information, in answer to questions. He had become convinced that the pest was a much more serious enemy than he had first supposed, but since it was so far

confined in Ontario to two or three small sections of two or three square miles each, it could still be easily routed. The young lice began to leave the mother scale about the end of June, and hence the importance of prompt action. He had found no scale at Leamington, and at Kingsville one square mile would cover the infested territory. He had found no forest trees affected. As to fumigation as a means of destroying the pest, he believed it was impracticable, because the canvas tents were not gas proof, and it was not possible to apply them to trees over ten or twelve feet high.

Mr. D. J. McKinnon, Grimsby, said he was greatly surprised that the Government should delay action in a matter so important to the farmers of Ontario, at such a critical moment; when delay might mean their ruin. The Commission might decide whether the Act should continue in force for another year, but in the meantime it should be pushed forward with all vigor, in accordance with the wish of the people expressed two years ago.

Mr. A. H. Pettit said he was much pleased when the Hon. John Dryden had the Scale Act passed, and he much regretted the present hesitation in carrying out its provisions. After considerable discussion a committee consisting of M. Pettit, Winona, D. J. McKinnon