

son, when the bark becomes more or less frozen by intense cold, and this is followed by a sudden change, and a hot sunshine upon the frozen bark causes ruptured cells and vital injury to the part affected. We know of no remedy, but

the evil might be prevented by protection of the crotches and upper sides of the limbs from the rays of the sun. We have found the King and the Spitzenburg especially liable to this evil.

Open Letters.

Importation of Nursery Stock.

SIR,—I see by reports in late editions of your paper that nurserymen and fruit growers in your vicinity are still urging the Government to continue to prohibit the importation of nursery stock from the United States and compel nurserymen here to fumigate all home grown nursery stock before selling. These laws militate in favor of large growers of trees who do business mostly by agents, and against smaller growers whose business is mostly local, and also against the general planter who has to pay higher prices on account of said prohibition and fumigation, and judging by the names as given of those who had those meetings, they are the large growers of nursery stock and fruit growers who are inspectors and draw Government pay, and others whom they scare by stories of the terrible ravages of the San Jose Scale. I don't believe that the scale is half so bad as those inspectors would have us believe, who go about the country with their pockets full of bottled vermin, which they exhibit while in gardens and orchards where danger of spreading is greatest, and if it is such a serious pest it can be overcome by spraying the same as other scale and bugs and things.

I was glad to find that Mr. Dearness, one of the Government Commission, was of the same opinion as myself, and in the January 6th issue of *American Gardening* you will find a writer saying that he has proved that spraying with crude Petroleum will entirely destroy San Jose Scale without in the least injuring the trees.

A nurseryman who does a large business by agents can quit selling by April the first, have a large fumigation house, dig all his trees

and fumigate them all at once, and ship and deliver at the proper time.

The small grower does business differently. He depends on the farmers and fruit growers in his vicinity to come in and get what they want. When spring opens they are very busy, and when they call for trees they are in a hurry and rather than wait to have their stock fumigated they will go home without it and not likely return, so we have in such cases to lose the sale or break the law. When a man has a certificate from a Government Inspector that his nursery is clean and has pressing bills to meet, which should he do? Laws should be framed so as to make it as easy to do right and hard to do wrong as is consistent with the public good.

I would be in favor of having competent inspectors inspect the nurseries twice a year at the owner's expense; give the clean nurseries a certificate to that effect on which they could do business without hindrance, where scale is found put a man in charge till every vestige of the same is destroyed. I also favor the importation of stock from Northern States when accompanied by certificate subject to inspection when opened here.

When the prohibition law was put in force nurserymen said prices would not be increased. But we find in some lines this year prices double what they were three years ago. The fact is there are not half enough apple trees in the country to supply the demand, and nurserymen are not slow to take advantage of the fact to raise prices when they can so easily get an advance.

Yours truly, A. W. GRAHAM.
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