

2 EDWARD VII., A. 1902

Mixture.—One pound caustic potash to five gallons of water. It may be used as strong as one pound to two gallons if applied with a brush or mop to the trunks only of the apple or plum trees.

H. PERCY BLANCHARD,

Inspector of Black Knot.

Baddeck, Victoria County,
October, 1901.

A. This is an excellent thing, drawing attention to facts well known, but not as well applied. After public attention was drawn to the matter, it had the effect, in Nova Scotia at any rate, of making some people do something where otherwise they might have left their orchards unattended to. The stirring up of an interest in a subject bearing on the welfare of all, must result in benefit to many. I am glad Mr. Ross has exhibited this poster.

THE HESSIAN FLY,—HOW TO GET RID OF IT.

By Mr. Robinson (Elgin):

Q. Would early sowing not prevent damage by the Hessian Fly?

A. No. The best remedy that I know of, is sowing later than the ordinary practice. In some experiments carried on at Guelph, by Prof. Zavitz, at the Ontario Agricultural College Farm, it was found that wheat sown on August 24 to 26, gave an average of 44 bushels to the acre. Wheat was also sown at varying dates after that until September 20, when 37 bushels was the average crop per acre produced under favourable conditions. That was only a loss of seven bushels of wheat for a delay of a month in sowing, and the advantage of an increased crop which can be produced by sowing early when there is no Hessian Fly, is much more than balanced by the loss caused by the Hessian Fly in years when that insect is prevalent, because early sown wheat is most liable to attack—the young plants being in a fit condition to receive the eggs when the female flies appear. Therefore, the later it is sown the better, so long as sufficient growth can be made for the young plant to stand the winter. I believe the best and most reliable way to secure a crop is, instead of sowing on the first of September, to delay until the end of September, at any rate during a period such as the present, when the Hessian Fly is rampant. Fall wheat may be sown at Ottawa very much later than September 1, with good results in many years, but occasionally an early winter does not allow it to make sufficient growth.

By Mr. Ross (Ontario):

Q. Does the Hessian Fly find food in other plants than wheat and barley?

A. No. Wheat and barley are the only food plants.

Q. Where does it germinate, if there is no wheat?

A. Nowhere. That fact makes late sowing so efficacious. The females come out in August and September. They are ready to lay their eggs as soon as they emerge, on any young wheat plants that are growing at the time, so that, by waiting until the end of September before sowing, the flies are all dead before the wheat comes up. That is the idea of sowing late.

By Mr. Robinson (Elgin):

Q. I suppose you have no trouble in noticing wheat when it is attacked by them?

A. No. It is very easy, if it is examined.

Q. It turns yellow?

A. First of all it is a very bright green, and before the winter has set in it turns yellow.