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Green Apple Aphids Control

(Written Especially for the Co-operative News by Prof. W. H. Brittain, Provincial Entomologist)

Chief among the injurious insects with which the fruit grower has to contend are several species of aphid or plant lice. Their control is rendered difficult by several factors. Being sucking insects, they are provided with long beaks, or by means of which they pierce the skin of the leaf and suck up the juices from within. For this reason they cannot be killed by stomach poisons, as biting insects are, but we must apply some preparation that will kill them by contact. All insects breathe through tiny openings in the sides of their bodies, and it is the object of contact sprays to plug up these openings, or to enclose the insect in a film, so that they are unable to breathe and therefore perish. Some contact insecticides do their work by means of the caustic action which they exert upon the bodies of the insects.

Another factor that makes aphids such formidable foes of the farmer is that they multiply so rapidly. They breed continually throughout the season, only ceasing with the approach of cold weather. If it were not for the fact that aphids are preyed upon by lady bird beetles and other insects, and are extremely susceptible to certain weather conditions, their control would be infinitely more difficult than it is now. Again, aphids have the faculty of causing a curling up of the leaves upon which they feed, which makes it almost impossible for them to be reached by spray mixtures.

The most numerous and destructive aphid infesting apple orchards in Nova Scotia is the green apple aphid. Their small shiny black eggs may be seen, during the winter months, upon the apple twigs. They hatch in early spring and by the time the buds have burst have usually all emerged. They cluster around the opening buds and work down between the unfolding leaves, feeding on the juice. As the leaves open out the plant lice cluster on their undersides and eventually will cause them to become very badly curled, if measures are not taken to prevent them.

Some of the aphids that are produced throughout summer develop wings and fly to other trees where they establish colonies of their own. At the approach of cold weather sexual forms are produced, the females of which lay their eggs upon the twigs and the life cycle is complete. Bearing the foregoing facts in mind we can next approach the problem of control more intelligently. In doing so, three things must be considered, first, the efficiency of spray to be used, second, its cost, and thirdly its ability to mix with sprays for biting insects and for fungous diseases. This last is a very important point, for by combining various sprays, one operation can frequently be made do the work of two or even of three.

Many sprays that are effective against the aphids cannot be used in this way, and others must be discarded on account of their high cost. Black Leaf 40, a preparation of nicotine sulphate, manufactured by the Kentucky Tobacco Product Co., of Louisville, Ky., which is now being handled by the United Fruit Companies, Limited, is becoming popular as a spray for aphids and other sucking insects. Applied at the right time it is one of the most effective aphid sprays now used and

has the additional advantage of mixing well with the lime sulphur wash and with Lead Arsenate. It is also reasonably cheap, costing about one cent for a gallon of the diluted spray. For green aphid it is used at the rate of one pint to one hundred gallons of water, or lime-sulphur as desired. When used without the lime sulphur, the addition of two pounds of soap will increase the efficiency of the spray, but soap must never be added to any mixture containing lime sulphur.

The time to spray for aphids coincides with the time to spray for apple scab, and the Black Leaf 40 can therefore be used to best advantage in combination with the regular scab spray of lime sulphur. The grower should go carefully over his orchard when the leaf buds are unfolding and determine whether aphid is present. This can be done by any one with a very little practice. If they are hatching in large numbers it will be advisable to spray at this time. Use a good pressure and plenty of material making certain that every insect is touched by the spray. The next and probably most important spray is just before the blossoms open and when the tips of the blossom petals are showing pink. Thus two applications or even one of them are sometimes sufficient, but if necessary another application may be given just after the petals have fallen.

A tobacco decoction equally as effective as the foregoing manufactured article can be made at home from tobacco waste, which can be purchased from cigar or tobacco factories at a small cost. It is made as follows:—

Refuse tobacco 2 lbs.
Water 5 gals.
Boil the tobacco in part of the water for a half-hour; add water to make five gallons. As the cost of this mixture is very little less than that of Black Leaf 40, most people will prefer to use the latter.

Other preparations used for aphids are whale oil soaps of different makes. These are easily prepared and fairly effective, but cannot be used with lime sulphur and cost from one and one-half to three cents per gallon. Kerosene emulsion is another spray which has been in use for many years for different kinds of sucking insects. It is made as follows:—

Soap 1 lbs.
Kerosene 2 gals.
Water 1 gal.
Dissolve soap in hot water, add oil and churn until a creamy emulsion is produced. Use one gallon of this solution to ten gallons of spray. Kerosene emulsion made in this way costs about two cents per gallon. It cannot be added to lime-sulphur and unless very carefully prepared is apt to burn the foliage. Owing to greater killing powers it is often preferred for the woolly and black species of aphid.

Whatever spray is used, however, it must be remembered that every insect must be covered and the spray applied before the aphids have had time to curl the leaves.

W. H. BRITTAIN.
MARCONI COMPANY NOW OFFERS
FOUR CENTS A WORD RATE
TO BRITAIN.

The ideal formed by the Hon. J. Henniker Heaton, a former postmaster-general of Great Britain, of a "penny a word cable" between Canada and Great Britain, has now been approached very closely by the reforms instituted by the Marconi Company in their Trans-Atlantic service, and which come into effect today. It will now be possible to send cable letters of twelve words for sixty cents with a further charge of four cents for each additional word, and week-end letters of twenty-four words for one dollar, with a further charge of four cents for each additional word. The rate per word is thus reduced to an average of four and one-half cents a word for the night letters and four cents for the week-end letters.

The original rate of the Marconi Company was fifteen cents a word, and five years after its establishment in Canada the rate was reduced for a deferred service to 7½ cents. The negotiations for the present reductions have been going on for some considerable time, but administrative difficulties stood in the way.

Another Mystery

Strange Horse and Carriage Found in the Woods Near the Bay Road.

Word reached Digby yesterday morning that a strange horse and carriage had been discovered in the woods on the east side of the Bay Road, a short distance west of the cross roads, some five miles from Digby.

Chief of Police Bowles and a Courier representative immediately commenced an investigation. They found that the horse had been killed with an axe while in the harness. He was found covered with two quilts and a horse blanket. In the buggy was a pail, containing two bags, in which were oats and meal. On the ground, in front of the forward wheel was a bag of hay. At the horse's head was an old fashioned axe. Considerable blood was on the snow in the vicinity of the team. Nearby was a small lard pail containing a quantity of tea, which had been steeped over an open fire. In the carriage was a small can containing a paper bag of tea. One of the bags of feed contained a lumbermen's large safety pin.

The horse was evidently quite a valuable one, weighing in the vicinity of 1100, and appeared to have been in a good condition, when he met his cowardly death blow.

When the team entered the woods it evidently came from the westward, and after the cruel deed had been done the occupants of the team evidently started toward Digby.

Near the team were tracks made by a woman with fairly new rubbers, who also wore gaiters. The man probably wore rubber boots. There were also moccasin tracks, but the chief of police and the Courier representative were not the first people there after the occupants had departed.

It is thought that the team was left at an early hour yesterday morning, probably just daylight and not later than ten o'clock.

Two strange men were seen walking towards Digby, passing by the cross roads about eight o'clock. On return to Digby yesterday we learned that two young men answering the description were seen loitering about the railway station before the departure of the east bound express.

Chief of Police Bowles has the axe in his possession. If any team has been stolen or is missing from any stable in this vicinity the Courier will be pleased to receive information by wire immediately.

All sorts of theories and strange stories are in circulation this morning, many of which point toward foul play, but no sufficient evidence has yet come forward to warrant an arrest.

To steal a hot stove is something of a feat, and yet this is the charge laid against Patrick Fownes, of Montreal, who was arrested Friday night and charged with taking a lighted stove from the office of the St. Maurice Sand Company, at the sand and gravel dock, No. 1 basin. Fownes is also accused of stealing a chair at the same time, which makes the feat somewhat more difficult.

Joe Howe's Father

Surrounding Halifax as an aura is an atmosphere of the associations of days gone by romantic as it is interesting. And the one chief link binding the Garrison City of Here and Now with an illustrious past is the good, old Halifax Recorder, still printed "blanket-sheet" style and scorning the services of the modern type-setting machine, though published daily as a newsworthy journal. Here is a very fair sample of its musings:

"Quite a land of liberty was old Chebucto, Halifax, but the rowdies could hardly help having a wholesome respect for, at least, one of the magistrates, who was able to exercise his power after the following fashion: One Sunday afternoon when John Howe, Esq., father of the famous Joseph Howe, was wending his way homeward, Bible under his arm, his son, Joseph, trotting by his side, he came upon two men fighting out their little differences. The old gentleman sternly commanded them to desist, but very naturally they paused long enough to answer him with abusive words. 'Hold my Bible, Joe,' said his father, and taking them by the head, and swinging them to and fro, as if they were a couple of newspaper boys, he bumped their heads together for a few minutes; then, with a lunge from the left shoulder, followed by another from the right, he sent them staggering off till brought up by the ground some twenty or thirty feet apart. 'Now ade,' calmly remarked the valiant magistrate to the prostrate scamps, 'let this be a lesson to you not to break the Sabbath in future;' and snugly replacing his Bible under his arm, he and young Joseph resumed their walk homewards."—Busy East.

EMIGRATION IS FALLING OFF.

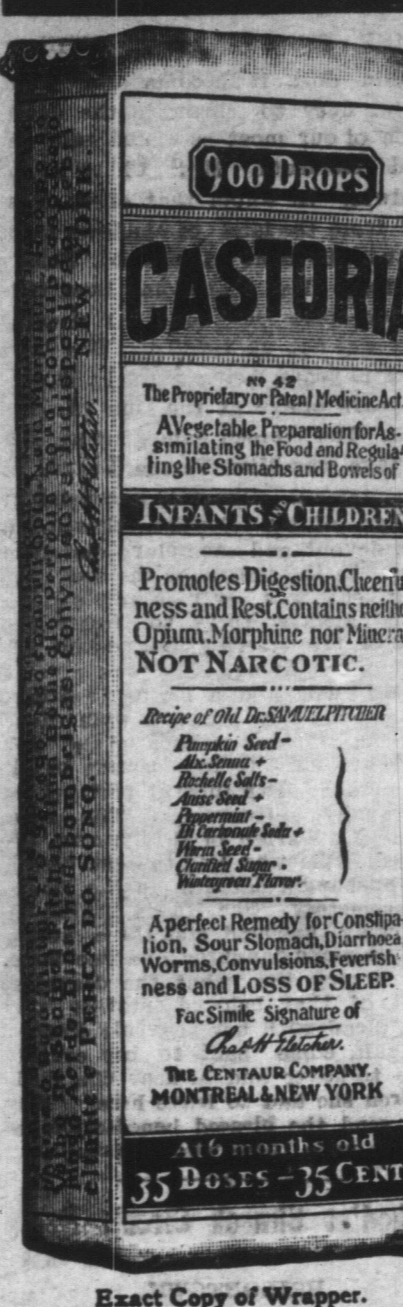
The Cunard and White Star Line Have Cancelled Trips.

(Morning Chronicle)

According to a recent despatch from London, there has been such a falling off in the emigration traffic that the Cunard and White Star Lines have been obliged to cancel trips. Inquiry made at S. Cunard & Company's office, the Halifax agents of the Cunard Line, elicited the information that the Halifax call of the big liner Franconia scheduled for March had been cancelled owing evidently to lack of emigration.

The sailing of the White Star liner Megantic, February 28, from Liverpool, has also been cancelled, according to the London despatch, owing to the same lack of passengers. This time last year there was a tremendous rush of Canadian travel.

The effect of Lloyd George's Land Bill is to keep the agricultural laborer on the soil in Great Britain and this is militating against emigration, is one view. In the industrial world in Europe business is better than it has been, so that the attraction of Canada is not so strong as formerly. There will probably be a big drop in the number of newcomers into Canada.



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