

not to be condemned for carrying the germs of pear blight. These I shall discuss in detail.

BEES AND SPRAYING

This subject has been discussed to such an extent that we should consider it fairly well settled were it not for the fact that frequently articles appear in the papers and are circulated over the country, conveying the information that bees have been killed by spraying, and even in some cases going so far as to say that honey has been poisoned by the use of spray liquids containing poisons carried to the hives by the industrious workers. In passing, we wish to pause only long enough to go on record as having said, that we consider the production of poisoned honey from sprayed plants as an impossibility, and such a suggestion an injustice to the producer and also to the consumer of the most delicious of human foods.

While it is now generally recognized that spraying blossoms is such a bad horticultural practice, from the standpoint of the fruit producer, that it is not followed, and consequently the danger of killing bees has passed away, we have a new hoax to be found in the statement which has received extensive circulation during the past spring to the effect that spraying for the San José Scale has killed bees. It appears constantly that either some bee-keeper is to be disgruntled over modern horticultural practices, or some fruit grower is anxious to assume a position of enmity toward a bee-keeper for some fancied wrong by bees. This is like the farmer who must necessarily find cause for complaint. It must first be poor crops, but when these yield more, he then complains of low prices, but when crops are good and prices are high, as during the present year, he still finds solace in being miserable over the fact that "It takes lots of work to harvest and market such crops, and besides it's awfully hard on the land."

The following article was extensively circulated in the papers of Pennsylvania during the past spring:

TREE SPRAYING KILLS BEES

THOUSANDS OF INSECT HONEY HUNTERS
DIE FROM SIPPING POISON

Tree spraying for the San José Scale now being conducted at the instance of the State Agricultural Department has

aroused the displeasure of the keepers of bees in the vicinity of Norristown, owing to the havoc it has created by killing thousands of these honey gatherers. Probably the heaviest loser is John C. Detwiller, in Whitmarsh, who says that his bees have died by the thousands since the trees in the neighborhood have been sprayed.

Mr. Detwiller says: "Bees require large quantities of water, especially at this season, and will obtain it from almost any blossom or wherever possible. This water is then mixed with the pollen in process of keeping the hive.

At present bees are feasting upon the opening blossoms, and almost as soon as they sip therefrom, the trees of which have been sprayed for the extirpation of the San José Scale, they become affected by the poisonous liquid and speedily die."

To this we felt obliged to reply as follows:

BEES AND TREE SPRAYING

STATE ZOOLOGIST SAYS SULPHUR WASH
KILLS THE SCALE BUT NOT THE BEES

"My attention has been called to a newspaper article entitled "Tree Spraying Kill Bees," and I beg to write concerning the error in this, as it is an injustice to the men who may wish to save their trees from the terrible San José Scale. In the first place, the spray for the San José Scale must be applied before the trees are in bloom, and our inspectors and demonstrators have never sprayed any trees while in blossom in order to kill any scale insects. Therefore there would be no honey bees around the trees sprayed for San José Scale at the time the spraying was done. The Lime-sulphur Wash is caustic, but it is not a "poisonous liquid." Bees could not be induced to sip it, and if they should do so, they would not be killed by it, as they would by an arsenical poison.

The bees around Norristown, as elsewhere in this State, may be dying from foul brood or a trouble, sometimes called "spring dwindling," but they certainly are not killed from the effect of any spray used or recommended by this office for San José Scale.

May I take this occasion also to call the attention of the public to the fact that we do not spray blossoms for any pest known. In other words, no trees should be sprayed while in bloom,