

Mountains until about seven years ago, when it was brought to nurseries in New Jersey in nursery stock, largely on the Japan plums which were being propagated and distributed from there. It has spread rapidly throughout the United States, and we hear the most alarming reports with regard to it. One inspector reports that within a radius of six miles every orchard is infested, and from the earlier infestations the orchards are almost entirely ruined, in some cases not five per cent. being left. It reached our own country, so far as we can learn, about four years ago. The first infestation that we know of was about five miles from Chatham, in the county of Kent. A gentleman there had received nursery stock from the New Jersey nurseries, and set it out. The trees apparently did well for a time, and then commenced to fail. The owner of the orchard noticed an incrustation coming over the trees, and he sent specimens to Prof. Fletcher, of the Experimental Farm, Ottawa. Specimens were also sent to Professor Howard at Washington, and he was informed that it was an infestation of the San José Scale, and advised to take every possible means to exterminate it. The owner at once commenced treating the trees, and treated them regularly all summer, but the results in the fall were not satisfactory, and he burned the trees. He wrote this fall saying: "I have entirely exterminated the scale from my orchard; I have watched carefully all summer and cannot detect any traces of it." I was there about six weeks ago, after this writing, and asked him to go with me to inspect the trees. It was a very stormy day and very bad weather indeed. We went to inspect the trees and inside of a very few minutes we found several trees infested, and he was very much surprised. Out of this same lot of trees which he got there were some given to another man and the infestation was found there, and the trees taken out and burned, and whether any infestation remains there or not I do not know. The next was a fruit grower, two miles from old Niagara on the Lake. He noticed that his trees were not doing well, presenting a greyish ashy appearance. He sent some of the specimens to Washington to Professor Howard, and was at once informed that it was the dreaded pest of the San José Scale. He commenced treating his trees at once, and there were only about a dozen infested. It was made known to the Ministers at Ottawa and Toronto, and the Professors from Toronto were sent on there, and the Professors from the Agricultural College of Guelph and myself, and a meeting of the fruit growers was called, and we made an inspection of the trees, and for the first time I saw and learned what the pest was. At that time I think perhaps fifteen or twenty trees would be the total number that we found infested. I have visited the orchard four times since. I may say also that this fruit grower was very anxious to save his trees, as any man would be. He had 140 pear trees and 1,600 peach trees. The worst he dug out and burned; and the rest he has treated every week all summer with whale oil soap which is considered the best preparation. I visited this orchard last week, and he told me he had become completely discouraged; that he had dug up the 140 pear trees and burned them. We found eleven trees in his peach orchard slightly infested last July. After talking the matter over with him for a length of time, we decided it would be advisable to take out eleven of the trees, in order that the infestation might be entirely checked. The Minister ordered that he should be paid \$250 for the trees taken out, both pear and peach trees. An agreement was made, and he consented to destroy the trees, but finally he relented. There was perhaps five or six baskets of peaches on the trees, and he thought he could save the crop. He went to the Minister and asked to be relieved from the bargain; the Minister said he did not think he could relieve him; that he thought the only cure was to stamp it out. He said he would not destroy them unless he was forced to do it. He tells me now that the infestation in his peach orchard covers eight times the area it did in July last.

It is a very difficult thing to detect. In fact, I made a very careful inspection of the outside and inside and ends of his orchard in July last, and I could find no signs of the scale there at all, and now it is quite easy to find; and he has just about given up in despair. This is just about in keeping with the record of treating the scale on the other side; it really appears that where it gains a foothold it is almost impossible to stamp it out. Some of the Professors say that if left unchecked it will have a wide habitation all over the face of the earth. A single scale, with its progeny, wintering over during the season will amount, Professor Howard says, to three billion. I have found trees that were completely encrusted with the scale, and then on top of the scale it was just alive with young. They are not visible to the naked eye; you have to find them with a glass.