

REPORT OF THE SAN JOSE SCALE COMMISSION.



HE report of this Commission is just to hand, signed by Dr. Mills and Messrs. Dearness and Bunting, three excellent men in whom the fruit growers have every confidence. The recommendations of the Commission are very much in line with the resolution passed by our Association at Whitby, and help to evidence the propriety of our position. The Committee had visited Catawba Island in company with Prof. Webster of Ohio, an island which is a continuous orchard for miles. Here 3000 or 4000 badly infested orchard trees had been removed in a block, and the surrounding orchards, which were not seriously infested, had been treated to whale oil soap—from one to two pounds to the gallon. The result of the treatment is very encouraging, for the treated orchards had taken on an exceptionally healthy and vigorous appearance, and although the scale had not yet been totally exterminated, it had not done any damage since the treatment began. Indeed the owners claimed that the treatment had been a blessing to them, not only in destroying the scale, but causing the trees to take a new vigor, through being cleared of insects and fungi, notably bark-lice and curl leaf.

It was Prof. Webster's opinion that persistent treatment would effectually exterminate the pest in the course of a few years.

Among other good points in the report, the following suggestions regarding future methods of procedure will be read with interest :

1. That the work of inspection, in a modified way, be continued for some time.
2. That the knowledge of sub-inspectors be tested, and none but certified and approved men be employed.
3. That the inspector be authorized to destroy at once all trees and shrubs which show signs of serious injury from the scale, or have their trunks and principal branches incrustated therewith.

(b) Badly infested trees and shrubs of un-

profitable varieties, or in unhealthy condition, even though not very much injured by the scale.

(c) Single infested branches or limbs on trees which appear to be otherwise free from infestation.

4. That all infested trees and shrubs, except the above, and all exposed trees and orchards be thoroughly treated according to the most approved method.

5. That large discretionary power be given to the inspector in dealing with isolated infestation in districts that are otherwise free, or supposed to be free from the scale.

6. That in order to secure effective treatment the work be done by the Government, but the owner be required to pay for the material and board the men and horses during the time of treatment, with the proviso that this course is only to be pursued with infestations discovered after that date be destroyed without compensation, or treated wholly at the expense of the owner.

7. Provides for frequent treatment in summer time of badly infested trees in foliage, which involve risk to neighboring orchards.

8. That the inspector be authorized to order the destruction of small trees and shrubs growing in fence corners and other places, where in his judgment, the removal of such growth is necessary to check the spread of the pest.

9. That owners be paid one quarter of the value of their trees without discount, and that the fruit on a tree be regarded as part of its value.

10. Provides that the method of valuation be modified so that the owner may be represented.

STOCK JOBBERS are already in the field offering a gullible public shares in liquid air stocks, much as they have recently been reaping rich harvests selling "salted" mining stocks. We warn our readers against all such tricks to get their money.