

## THE FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR.

SIR,—Our last year's visitors, the caterpillars, are on the rampage again, more plenty than even last year. I am in hopes that this may be their last year with us. They have nearly cleaned the Poplar of the fresh young leaves already. So far I have kept my orchard clean by persistent spraying every few days; but when they get big and begin to travel round, will keep them back by band of tarred cotton round the tree trunk. Paris green is after they get big,—at least I have not found it of any use. I have observed that the bud worm is here this spring; this is the first time it has made its appearance to be noticed. We are a little behind you good people in old Ontario, but are getting educated whether we will or no, and this kind of compulsory education we'll have to get, and I hope may profit by what you older people have already learned.

CHAS. YOUNG,  
*Richard's Landing, Algoma.*

Mr. W. M. Munson, of the Maine Experiment Station, writes :

The Forest tent caterpillar is defoliating many orchards in Maine the present season. The eggs are laid upon the twigs in the same way as those of the common tent caterpillar, but the insects, instead of spinning a web for a resting place, gather in great masses upon the sides of the trees at moulting time, and they often migrate for considerable distances. In many cases during the past year, they swept over entire orchards in spite of everything that could be done. Spraying in the manner already indicated, if begun when the insect first appears, will usually prove effective, but if delayed till the caterpillars are half grown, it is of no avail. Many large orchardists have been approximately successful in holding the pests in check when they appeared in force, by putting on rubber gloves and crushing as many as possible of the insects. Many of those not killed would spin a web, and drop to the ground when disturbed, and a band of paper, smeared with equal parts of lard and sulphur, tacked about the trunk, prevents their return to the tree. The Forest caterpillar is at present doing much injury to the shade trees in the cities and towns of Maine, as well as to the orchards.

We have received numerous letters from subscribers living in northern parts of Ontario complaining of the ravages of caterpillars, saying they were so abundant as to become a great plague, sometimes collecting so thickly on the track as to be the means of stopping the trains; and in the orchards they were so

numerous as to threaten their wholesale destruction. Some complain that even Paris green is ineffective. It is quite evident that reference is made to the Forest and not the Apple tree Tent Caterpillar. The latter is comparatively easy of control by spraying, but the former increases so enormously at times in the forests that immense swarms often travel across roads or along fences in search of food, and woe to the garden or orchard which comes in their way. The foliage may be well poisoned with Paris green, but what if the first thousand or two perish, the endless hosts following will soon take their places, and continue their ravages until July, when they usually go into cocoons and wait for another season's attack. When we were on St. Joseph's Island last July we noticed the evergreen trees white with loads of the whitish yellow cocoons like crops of some peculiar fruit; even the fences were dotted with them and every other convenient lodging place.

We are not surprised to hear they have now appeared in enormous numbers, and that all usual remedies fail against such an army. Mr. Young's band of tarred cotton around the trunks of the trees is a fine plan, because one can easily control those worms hatching out from eggs deposited on the apple trees, provided fresh worms from the forest do not crawl up the trees to take their places. Dr. Saunders says on this subject: "During the day they are so constantly on the move, that a young tree thoroughly cleansed from them in the morning may be crowded again before evening. To avoid the necessity of constant watchfulness, strips of cotton batting, three or four inches wide, should be tied around the tree about half way up the trunk. These bands