

be found necessary to use a chain on the plough, and in addition a rolling coulter when ploughing clovers and peas. Also, when cover crops are grown in young orchards, the trees should be protected from the attacks of mice. The advantages of a cover crop include the following: 1, It protects the roots of trees from frost during the winter months. 2, It

tends to develop and mature the fruit by drawing the excessive moisture from the soil. Apples seem to take on a better color and quality. 3, By adding humus to soils it increases their moisture-holding powers and makes them more fertile. 4, It is a cheap way of fertilizing the soil. This can be done at about one half the cost of applying stable manure.

consolidates the various pests, namely, San Jose Scale, Yellows, Little Peach, Black Knot, Pear Psylla, and Pear Blight, under one act, and gives power to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to add any other disease to the act. It provides that the provincial government shall pay one half of all the moneys paid to inspectors under this act. Formerly this provision only extended to the San Jose Scale.

The San Jose Scale and the Fruit Pests Act

By "Weary Worm" Winona, Ont.

AS far as the Niagara District is concerned, the San Jose scale is fairly well under control. It is not spreading to any great extent; indeed, in the western end of the peninsula it is much less prevalent than it was a few years ago. In some of the outlying districts, however, especially where fruit growing is not the main industry, it is spreading rapidly.

Legislative efforts to control this pest have been far from perfect. In many respects, however, the new act of the Ontario Legislature, which has recently come in force (this act supersedes the old acts known as The Yellow and Black Knot Acts, the Noxious Insect Act, and the San Jose Scale Act) is a distinct improvement. In others it still repeats some of the old weaknesses.

The following are the chief reasons why scale control is difficult: From the beginning a considerable number of fruit growers have been either bitterly hostile or else careless and indifferent to the enforcement of any stringent regulations in this matter. This spirit is largely dying out, but there are still a certain number of such persons left; and, indeed, many of the large and most up-to-date fruit growers are utterly indifferent as to whether their neighbors treat the scale or not. "We are going to spray all our trees every year with lime and sulphur anyway, and if they do not spray they will have to pay the penalty," is what they say.

One of the chief causes of failure has been that persons occupying the office of local inspectors have not been sufficiently well posted to have the full confidence of the fruit growers. Great responsibility rests upon these men. It is absolutely necessary for them to be thoroughly posted in all the symptoms of scale, yellows, little peach, and so forth, so as to educate the local fruit growers up to the point of appreciating the vast importance to themselves of a proper inspection of their orchards every season. Too often such appointments have been made from a political standpoint chiefly, and not from the standpoint of efficiency, whereas efficiency should be the main consideration. These remarks apply to the provincial inspector as well.

The provincial inspector should be so

thoroughly qualified in all these matters as to be able, before sending his staff out to work in the beginning of the season, to instruct them thoroughly in all the different symptoms of the various diseases and insects, and he should allow no man to go out as a local inspector unless he can satisfy him that he is so

Power is given to the reeve or mayor, upon the report of the local inspector, to have diseased plants sprayed—after ten days' notice to the proprietor—and the cost charged on the lot and collected as a special tax by the municipality.

Local inspectors are subject and subordinate to the head inspectors appointed by the Minister of Agriculture. In case of any neglect of duty such inspectors



Interested Farmers Learning How to Spray and How to Prune

In each of the six demonstration orchards in the Georgian Bay District, Ont., that were described in the July issue of *The Canadian Horticulturist*, practical demonstrations were given for the benefit of those who wished to learn. The illustration shows those who attended the meeting in the orchard owned by Mr. W. Hamilton, Collingwood, Ont. The Ontario Department of Agriculture should extend this work next year to a number of the other best orchard sections throughout the province. Photo by I. F. Metcalfe.

qualified. But if the chief inspector is not thoroughly qualified in these respects himself, how can he instruct his subordinates? This has been a fatal cause of weakness in the past, for to my certain knowledge men have been appointed as local inspectors who did not know the San Jose scale from any other scale, who were totally unacquainted with the symptoms of "Yellows," and who did not even know there was such a disease as "Little Peach."

THE SALARY QUESTION

The new act, as did the old, leaves the question of payment entirely to the municipality who appoints the inspectors. Too often municipal councils want to pay the lowest possible price, instead of paying an amount large enough to secure good men. A remedy for this would be for the provincial authorities to fix the rate of remuneration at a rate sufficiently high to secure such men.

In the following respects, however, the new act is a distinct improvement. It

are subject to the penalties prescribed by this act.

The following are two of the chief weaknesses of the act. It provides that the appointment of inspectors remains in force only for the calendar year in which it is passed. It should not be necessary to set the whole machinery in motion every year. Careless and indifferent townships are apt to neglect the renewal of appointments till too late, and then the inspectors have no legal status and these townships go uninspected. Local inspectors should be appointed for longer periods, ample provision being made for new appointments, as also for removal if necessary. Where the local inspectors report that trees should be destroyed there is not sufficient provision made for prompt action. It is all left to the municipality notifying the Minister. In practice this is a great source of weakness. A certain time should be allowed (say 10 days) for the owner to appeal either to a board or