

probably enormously exaggerated. I can quite understand that a comparatively small number of tent caterpillars walking close together along the rails, when crushed by the wheels, would speedily prevent a train making good progress. When these caterpillars wander they are in search of food, and that is a practical point for us to know about them. If you have taken the proper means to preserve your orchards and have kept them clear of insects, your trees are covered with foliage in good condition, so you may expect that they will come to you. Therefore you must take means to protect your trees from caterpillars which will come from outside and crawl up the trunks. Some of the simple mechanical contrivances are of great use. One of these is an inverted cone of wire netting which is placed around the tree, and when the caterpillars climb up they are kept there and do not seem to have sense enough to crawl down to the edge and crawl up the outside of the cone, but they gather together in masses beneath it. This will prevent them from getting up long enough to allow the fruit grower, who is on the look out, to destroy them. A syringe with coal oil is a good instrument for this purpose. Another plan is to use bands with some viscid material, such as a mixture of castor oil and rosin. These have been used with good effect, for when the caterpillars reach this band painted on tin, cardboard or paper, they either get caught in the viscid mixture or will not crawl over it.

By Mr. Sproule

Q. I saw farmers using wool with tar on it 30 and 40 years ago.

A. Yes, or what is less dangerous for the tree and is a very good method is to tie a band of cotton batting around the tree, as it stands out loosely and the caterpillars cannot crawl over it.

Q. Wool is better than cotton, as the cotton sags and is soon matted; wool is undoubtedly the best.

A. Yes, that would be better. I never saw wool used, but it would probably be better than cotton batting, which would need to be kept teased out. Every one knows these remedies, but the trouble is they do not use them, so their trees become infested and they lose a large percentage of their crop. About the time these pests are due to appear, we send out articles to the newspapers, little squibs, and the papers are glad to publish them. Still I must go back to my first statement that the damage done by injurious insects is due to the fact, not that people do not know the remedies but that they put them into operation too late or not at all. It is a prompt application that is effectual.

VALUE OF SPRAYING.

Occasionally we find new insect enemies, either new altogether or new in the sense that they are extending their range to the Dominion from some other country and these introduced insects are frequently the worst pests which attack gardens and farm crops. Injurious insects have now been studied sufficiently for us to prevent attack or minimize the injury, so that it may now be said that in almost all instances something may be done to reduce the loss. The operation of spraying is now so well known and adopted so generally by wise fruit growers and other farmers that it is not worth while taking up the time of the committee to-day with it. Every sensible man and every good business man now knows that for certain crops you must spray. The apple grower knows that to get clean, whole, sound fruit, he has to spray. Systematic experiments have shown that we can save 75 per cent of our apples by spraying at the proper time. In fact all fruit crops can be increased by spraying at the proper time. All these facts are now known and can be found in the reports of this committee, in the experimental farm reports, or in the spraying calendars; so, there is no excuse for any one in Canada who wants to know how to protect his crops or to cope with many pests which they may know, or even with those which they may not know; for they can get information easily, which will enable them to fight in the best way most of their insect enemies.

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