

## Agriculture and Colonization.

he recommends is 10 lbs. to each tree, spread over the surface of the soil where it is dissolved by rain and washed into the soil. This is another instance showing how we have the advantage, in dealing with many of the imported insects, of the experience of our friends to the south, and are able to check them upon their first appearance, with the remedies which experience has shown to be best. Some of the orchards near Leamington where this trouble has occurred have been treated with kainit, and further applications will be made in the spring.

*By Mr. Carpenter :*

Q. Have you estimated the probable expense of the treatment?—A. That is a matter that will depend upon the demand for kainit. The cost has been high in Canada, heretofore, because there has been a very small demand for it. During the last year it has been very largely used in New York State and it is used to some extent in Canada as a fertilizer, but the price varies. I do not know if Professor Robertson is aware of the present price.

Professor ROBERTSON,—I think the last quotation I saw was very much lower than formerly, about \$16 a ton.

*By Mr. McGregor :*

Q. Would not fresh ashes have the same result?—A. To some extent they would but they have not been found as effective as the kainit. They have been used and are certainly a wonderful fertilizer for the trees, but the results are not so satisfactory, as far as the insects are concerned, as those obtained from the kainit, which if Prof. Smith's experiments are confirmed, are very remarkable.

### HOUSEHOLD INSECT PESTS.

*Moths.*—Another branch of insect life that has been brought prominently forward during the past year is household pests. In Toronto there seems to have been almost a plague of carpet moths, and this is a subject that is of interest to everybody, because there are very few of us that have not had the annoyance of finding that our clothes have been destroyed by carpet moths, and to find out the best means to prevent this loss is a matter that is well worthy of consideration by all. The chief thing, really, I suppose, is to keep our eyes open and notice when the moths first begin to appear. Moths are beginning to occur now, and those of us who have not put away our winter furs and clothes had better do so as soon as possible and put them away in a tight receptacle, so that the moths cannot get at them to lay their eggs on them. The life history is so well known, and perhaps is well known to everybody here as to make it clear that the moth itself does no injury to our clothes; it is all done by the little caterpillars which come from the eggs laid by the female moths. The moths are naturally attracted by any material which will provide suitable food for their young. They lay their eggs on any cloth or any material made of animal substances. Our clothes are made of wool and these form proper food for these minute caterpillars. Cotton is a vegetable material, so that it is not attacked. Paper also is chiefly made of vegetable matter and as it is not attacked, any box or receptacle can be made moth-proof by simply pasting old newspapers on the outside. In this district I know of several of our farmers' wives who have adopted this method of putting away their winter clothes and fur robes; any old box or packing case will answer. If there are no eggs laid by the moths before the garments are put away, there certainly can be none laid afterwards, because no moths can get inside to lay eggs after the box or other receptacle has been pasted up, and the caterpillars which do the damage can only originate from eggs laid by the mother moths. The moths are only beginning to appear now and there is yet time to put the clothes away without fear of their being infested. Packing away clothes with camphor or that abominable malodorant called "moth camphor" will have no effect in destroying the moths after the eggs have been laid. It makes an unpleasant place for them to live in just in the same way as it does for ourselves, but it does not kill the caterpillars. Clothes should be shaken or beaten thoroughly and then put away in a box made moth-proof in the way I have mentioned.