

MR. DEARNESS: There is one point that is of importance, and that is as to the time it injures the peach buds. It does not injure the buds of other fruit excepting peach.

PROF. WEBSTER: Not so far as we have learned. There is a possibility of a similar effect on some varieties of pear.

DR. FLETCHER: It is far better to do the spraying in the spring. One of the great defects in using soap is the want of uniformity. It is simply a matter of accuracy in making it, and the soap that Prof. Webster has used is practically the same potash soap made in an accurate way, so that you can look for the same results every time.

PROF. WEBSTER: I want to ask Prof. James if there is any way that a series of experiments could be carried out whereby we could get some definite idea, or some more exact idea, of the fertilizing value of soaps made of a certain strength.

PROF. JAMES: That is a very difficult matter. Analyses of soils are not very satisfactory, and you are experimenting with a living plant, which apart from the experiment might, or might not, produce. It is different from feeding an animal. Trees vary so much in their production, you might take a row of trees and treat them in different ways, but you are never perfectly sure.

A MEMBER: I notified Mr. John McMechan, who was Secretary of this Society some years ago, and who is a soap manufacturer, to be present here to day, and I also asked Mr. Heard, who manufactures spray pumps, to be present, but neither gentleman is here. I thought they might have been of some benefit to the Society, or we might have benefited them in the manufacture of their products.

PROF. LOCHHEAD: I had the honor of attending the Commissioners during their trip to the west this summer. I was not able to be with them when they went to the Niagara District, consequently I cannot speak for that district. We saw in the western part, especially around Guilds, south of Blenheim, some effects of the San Jose Scale in several orchards. I think that even the most sanguine believer in the non-destructiveness of the San Jose Scale could come to no other conclusion but that it was a scale that was very destructive if left alone. Apparently the scale was first introduced into the Guilds District, in Mr. Warner's orchard, about six years ago, and from what I can gather, the attention of the neighborhood and of Mr. Warner himself was called to the death of some of his trees. From that orchard the scale has spread to other orchards, so that one of the most important conclusions we must come to is that the scale is extremely destructive if left to itself. Mr. Dearness has just given us very many instances of the destructiveness of the scale, and it lies with us to impress that fact upon the orchard-men of the Province. In the Kingsville District we saw one orchard, Mrs. Pulling's, originally one of the J. D. Wigle orchards, which was in a very bad condition. I did not see any dead trees, but the trees were in a bad condition. At J. D. Wigle's the scale had broken out in two or three localities; many of the trees that had originally been set out had died, and their places had been filled with fresh nursery stock. This nursery stock had not been fumigated, and consequently the infestation spread from several centres. Now as to the orchard to which Professor Dearness alludes, Mr. Honor's orchard, near Amherstburg, I may say that we were driven to the orchard one fine morning, and that we saw a splendid object lesson on the effects of whale-oil treatment in an orchard infested with the oyster-shell bark-louse. The trees were large, and any observer could have told at once that they had once been in a pitiable state. I do not know whether Mr. Honor had scraped the bark-lice off or not, but undoubtedly the trees were in a good, healthy, thrifty condition at the time of our visit, and the old bark was sloughing off as if from old wounds. As a matter of fact, the trees had been almost bark-bound before. The recovery of the trees was not due simply to the death of the oyster-shell bark-lice, but it may be partly attributed to the removal of fungi and lichens that incrust the bark, for I think very serious injury will be done to trees if lichens are allowed to incrust the bark. If the pores of the bark are stopped up, free interchange of gases is prevented, and partial suffocation takes place. The whale-oil soap solution also softens the bark so that it can yield freely to the growth of the tissues within.

After this I had the pleasure of going down to Oatawba Island in Ohio. There I saw another splendid object lesson in the recovery of that peach district from the

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