

as was proposed. Whether it was the result of this resolution or not, the bill when passed was not so drastic as anticipated. Still the measure is very hard upon us in Manitoba and the Territories as we cannot import even a hothouse rosebush. This shuts us out from our nearest and most natural market for buying trees. We hope that before long we will have shrubberies and nurseries at home sufficient to supply all requirements, but at present we have not anything like a sufficient supply to meet the demand. The Dakotas are our nearest and most natural market, the climate being very similar to our own, while in Ontario the season is longer and the rainfall much heavier than it is in Manitoba. Besides this, Minnesota and the Dakotas are free from this scale, while in Ontario, from which by this Act we are compelled to buy our trees, the scale has already considerable foothold. I have drawn up a rough skeleton of a resolution covering this matter which may serve as a basis for discussion, but before reading it I may say that your Executive have consulted several experts as to the desirability of getting trees from the Dakotas and Minnesota rather than Ontario. We have opinions from Mr. Angus McKay, Superintendent Experimental Farm, Indian Head, The Jewell Nursery Company of Lake City, Minn., Mr. A. P. Stevenson and Mr. Alston. Mr. McKay's opinion reached me in the form of a letter which I will read.

INDIAN HEAD, ASSA., 13th January, 1898.

PROFESSOR BAIRD, WINNIPEG.

DEAR SIR,—

I have your letter of the 10th instant in which you do me the honor to ask my opinion of the advisability of allowing trees and shrubs to be imported into the Northwest from Minnesota and Dakota.

Permit me to say in reply that I feel certain no harm can be done in importing the varieties of trees and shrubs from these two states that are of any use for this country.

One variety especially, the American Cottonwood "*Populus Monilifera*" is proving to be a valuable addition to our limited number of forest trees, and any restriction to its importation should be reduced as much as possible. With proper inspection at the port of entry there will be no danger from the San Jose Scale or any other pest that may infest trees in more southern States than Minnesota or Dakota. In any case I am sure our own climate is proof against any serious injury from imported pests of any sort. Permit me also to say that in our experiments with trees, shrubs and seeds, I have found those varieties that are grown in the Northern parts of Minnesota and Dakota much more suitable for the Northwest than those raised in Ontario. I have for years relied on North Dakota seed corn for the