

and I maintain that it is almost impossible to rely on any inspection that is practicable. It would be a most expensive business to inspect all trees that come into our country and find out whether they have any scales on them or not. It would require specialists to examine for the Scale and others to open and close the parcels, so that the plants were not injured. This insect increases with such rapidity that if you notice a single scale on a tree in the beginning of the season, by the end of the same season the pest will most probably have spread all over the whole tree as badly as on this worst branch. By the end of the next year it will have spread all over the orchard. That, at least, has been about its history since it was introduced from California into the east. It is sometimes said that it does not spread rapidly. It is true that it does not appear to spread rapidly at first, but at the same time it must be acknowledged that it does spread widely and rapidly, as is shown by its history east of the Rockies. From the time of its discovery, four years ago, in one State it has now spread over thousands of miles of territory so that almost every State is infested with it. Thus, both statements may, in a sense, be true. It may not spread very quickly at first, but it spreads very rapidly after a while. It is immensely injurious, killing trees in three or four years or rendering them so weak that although treated so as to prevent the spread of the Scale a tree once badly infested is practically worthless, and it is generally acknowledged that it is better, unless the tree is very valuable, to destroy it altogether so as not to run the risk of letting the insects spread.

The Government of Ontario has been somewhat criticised for having passed a Bill providing for the destruction of infested trees, and then paying 25 per cent on the value of the trees. It is said that this was not compensation enough. I think it is. A Government must help the country, but this must be done in reason. If an epidemic occurs, the Government cannot prevent it and cannot be held responsible for it, nor give bonuses to those who suffer. So, since the Government is giving this bonus, and it must be called a bonus, so that a serious injury to the community may be obviated, the people should congratulate themselves on getting anything at all, for it is a much more serious matter than the generality of people think, and it might have been necessary for the Government to demand the destruction of a source of public danger without giving any compensation. The Honourable Minister was criticised for forcing his Bill through Parliament so quickly. Everything depended on the measure being pushed through at once and quickly. At one time it was thought the Ontario Government were not doing as much as they ought, that they were not pushing the work vigorously enough, but there are many things which Governments do in their own ways that the public do not know about. In this case the Government was having the country inspected and finding out to what extent it was infested before carrying out these measures. It was found to be far more infested than people thought, and it appeared to be a more serious thing the more it was investigated. The Government of the Province of Ontario is now carrying out remedial measures with energy and doing the best possible for the province and for Canada at large. I think the San José Scale has spread more and is likely to be more injurious in the south-west part of Ontario than in the other parts of the country, although we do not know for certain but that it may spread in other parts of Canada. The pest has occurred in Canada only in British Columbia and Ontario. Its presence in our orchards is of such gravity that any extreme measures within reason are justifiable and proper. Both of these provinces have acted promptly and decidedly. While, therefore, this has been done in Ontario and British Columbia, where they have passed and carried out stringent measures, it was, in my opinion, eminently proper and extremely wise for our Minister to push his Act through quickly, so as to protect our important fruit industries from a serious enemy and the country from a very certain menace to its trade.