

## SPRAYING OF FRUIT TREES.

The Legislative Assembly of Ontario, at the 1892 session, passed the following Act, in reference to the spraying of fruit trees and the protection of bees. Following it will be found a brief summary of the evidence taken before a special committee of the House in connection with the consideration of this Bill.

### AN ACT FOR THE FURTHER PROTECTION OF BEES.

(Assented to April 8, 1892.)

1. No person in spraying or sprinkling fruit trees, during the period within which such trees are in full bloom, shall use or cause to be used any mixture containing Paris green or any other poisonous substance *injurious to bees*.

2. Any person contravening the provisions of this Act, shall, on summary conviction thereof before a justice of the peace, be subject to a penalty of not less than \$1.00 or more than \$5.00 with or without costs of prosecution, and in case of a fine or a fine and costs being awarded, and of the same not being upon conviction forthwith paid, the justice may commit the offender to the common gaol, there to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding thirty days unless the fine and costs are sooner paid.

3. This Act shall not come into force until the first day of January, 1893.

### EVIDENCE AS TO SPRAYING OF FRUIT TREES.

Mr. Allen Pringle, ex-President Bee-keepers' Association, Selby, gave evidence as to bees being killed by Paris green sprayed upon fruit trees, referring to various accounts taken from bee journals. He cited Prof. Cooke, of Michigan, as authority. He had no experience himself as to effect of poisonous spraying upon his bees.

Mr. F. A. Gemmell, President Bee-keepers' Association, Stratford: Bees will feed upon sweetened matter that contains poison. Spraying during bloom is only throwing away time, labor and money; when bloom has fallen is the proper time.

Mr. Wm. McEvoy, Bee Inspector, Woodburn: Had heard many complaints that bees are being poisoned. Had seen them dying and dead; thought the honey also might be injured by poison being carried to it by the bees.

Mr. Gemmell did not think the honey would be affected, as when spraying is done the honey is being gathered for brood.

Mr. Gilmer said only one fruit grower in his neighborhood sprayed; there was no loss, however, as he did not spray during bloom.

Mr. A. W. Peart, fruit grower, Burlington: Had been for some time in the habit of spraying apples, plums and cherries immediately after fall of blossoms. Did so because the blossoms are much more tender than the leaves. The bees play a very important part in cross-fertilization and therefore should not be destroyed. Had had success in spraying, trees sprayed giving more bountiful harvest than those not sprayed. Thought this Bill was in accordance with the researches on these lines for the last ten years. Fruit-growers in his district delay spraying until after the blossoms fall and are favorable to this Bill.

Mr. P. C. Dempsey, fruit-grower, Trenton: Had sprayed for over