

*By Mr. Watson :*

Q. In Manitoba for the last couple of years, we have had a little green insect which has been killing off the soft maple trees. A. I was in Winnipeg in August and I found that the trees were in a horrible state of dirt. They had been apparently infested by a species of *aphis*—one of those small plant lice—and the whole trees were covered with their honey-like exudation. It would probably entail considerable expense, but the whole of those shade trees should be syringed immediately the insects appear with a pyrethrum wash or a weakened coal oil emulsion. Of course, however, it is just possible they may not be attacked this year.

Q. Last year it killed off some of the trees altogether that had been attacked the previous year? A. From what I could see of the filthy state of the trees, they were covered with the honey-like exudation, which is really the excrement of this insect. This excrement exudes from tubes on their backs, and it is this which attracts ants so much to these plant lice. From what I saw, I was convinced that an *aphis* had been there.

Q. They cover the whole tree? A. I should recommend that an emulsion of coal oil should be sprayed over the whole tree.

*By Mr. Bain :*

Q. Speaking of apple trees, we have experienced considerable difficulty in the neighbourhood of Hamilton. A number of apple trees suddenly become brown, just as if a caterpillar had attacked the leaves. They stay that way for two or three weeks, and then the young shoots begin to crack, and by degrees the leaves drop off. It appeared just as if caterpillars were at work as you drove past the orchards, but some farmers told me it was more like a blight. The leaves simply withered away.

Mr. FLETCHER.—I had one letter complaining that the apples dropped in large numbers this spring, but heard nothing of what you refer to.

*By Mr. Bain :*

Q. In the case I am speaking of the leaves dropped. There was one particular orchard I passed every two or three days, and in looking up the rows, there were one or two which were perfectly brown while the other trees were not affected. The ground was of such a character that this could not have been the effect of frost.

Mr. MARSHALL.—I may say that near Hamilton recently we saw several orchards from the train which were affected in the manner described.

*By Mr. Semple :*

Q. What do you consider the best wash for apple trees, to make them healthy? A. Soap contains a certain amount of alkali, and cleans out small insects, and does not injure the trees in any way. In Nova Scotia they scrape the trees and whitewash them, which is very beneficial, as lime has an excellent cleansing effect, and being an alkaline earth keeps away insects, and moreover improves very much the appearance of the orchards.

On motion, Mr. Fletcher was tendered a cordial vote of thanks.

The Committee then adjourned.