

THE GYPSY MOTH IN MASSACHUSETTS.

[A discussion on the work of its extermination, at the eighth annual meeting of the Association of Economic Entomologists, Buffalo, August 22nd, 1896.]

REPORTED BY A. H. KIRKLAND.

At the eighth annual meeting of the Association of Economic Entomologists, held at Buffalo, August 21st and 22nd, 1896, a part of one session was devoted to the consideration of the work of exterminating the gypsy moth in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The subject was presented for discussion by the President, Prof. C. H. Fernald, at the morning session of the second day. Prof. Fernald referred to the action of the Association at its Springfield (1895) meeting, and stated that at the legislative hearings of the past spring, held with reference to determining the size of the appropriation to be granted for continuing the work of exterminating the gypsy moth, no representations made by the Gypsy Moth Committee, the Director, or himself, carried a fraction of the weight that the endorsement of the Association afforded. The legislators recognized the Association as a body of eminent scientists, and accordingly valued the opinion of its members.

In speaking of the present condition of affairs brought about by the failure of the Legislature to provide sufficient funds for the continuance of the work in the most approved manner, the Professor stated that future action must be along one of three lines :

(1) To continue the work with a view to *extermination*. This can be done, but will involve a vast outlay.

(2) To attempt the *control* of the insect, but with no idea of its ultimate extermination. This means a great annual expenditure that must be continued indefinitely.

(3) To abandon the whole work, "let the insect spread at its own sweet will," and trust to the property owners to care for their own estates. Should this latter course be adopted, it would be impossible to say how long a period of time would elapse before the pest would spread over the whole of New England and into adjacent territory. The insect is now in a condition to spread rapidly through avenues of traffic, and its diffusion over the whole country would probably be a matter of comparatively short time.

The committee in charge, and those directly connected with the work, have been criticised because the importation of parasites has not been attempted. This, the Professor explained, had not seemed wise while the work has been carried on with a view to extermination, since