

Canada demanded that the Government should do something. Last year letters poured in to the Minister, demanding some legislation to protect Canada from this insect which was doing so much harm to the south of us. There has been some adverse criticism because the word fruit was omitted from the San José Scale Act. This omission was made purposely. I do not believe that there is any danger of the Scale being carried to Canadian orchards on fruit. The Act has been made prohibitive. Prohibition was necessary. It was not a matter to hesitate about. If we were going to carry any measure at all it had to be an extreme measure. Our fruit growers recognized the importance of the case and were ready for it. Our nurserymen stated that they would not increase the price of their nursery stock, and I am happy to say that this has not been done to any undue degree. The demand for stock has of course given the nurserymen some trouble to supply it, but they have been able to meet all demands, and I know of no detriment to our fruit growers from inability to get the stock they required. Moreover, there is advantage to the buyer of fruit trees to get them from Canadian nurseries, for not only is it certain that northern grown trees will be hardier, but they will be free from this serious enemy. I have not been able to learn of a single instance where the stock of a Canadian nursery has been found to be infested by this Scale. It is different in the United States. I refer to the United States as a matter of necessity, not because I wish to antagonize the nurserymen of that Republic or run counter to their wishes, but because in the past so much nursery stock has been bought of them every year, and at the present time they are a source of danger to us. Not only has this action of the Government and Parliament of Canada been popular in Canada, but in the United States as well; it has been approved of by those people who think and who have expressed themselves without fear. Those who are best fitted to express an opinion are the entomologists of the different States who have had to study this matter and who know the gravity of the case. These gentlemen, almost with a single voice, have pronounced in favour of the Act we have passed. It is extremely popular here, and, as I say, extremely popular south of the border, except with a few nurserymen in the United States who had taken orders for delivery this spring and were, therefore, put to some small pecuniary loss. These orders were given by our people who did not recognize the serious nature of this insect pest and who did not follow a wiser course and get their stock from their own nurserymen—a course calculated to produce better results in many ways. Some people, however, seem to value things more the further they go from home to procure them. On the whole, however, notwithstanding some little inconvenience to those who wished to import trees and shrubs from the United States, the San José Scale Act has been a decidedly popular measure, both in Canada and in the United States. It has also had a very good effect on European markets where there is a recognition of the fact that Canada has taken every precaution to grow the products of her orchard of the very best quality and to protect them from the ravages of this terrible pest.

I will speak now as to the difficulties of detecting this Scale. The insect is very small and inconspicuous. Here are some branches which are affected, more or less, by the insect. This, first, is a branch very badly infested indeed, and you see the insect can be readily detected. Then there are branches less badly infested, and here is one very little infested. When a tree is badly infested the fact is very evident, and there is no difficulty in seeing the scales, but when it has only a few scales on it, it is almost impossible to detect them. On this very slightly injured branch you will see how almost impossible it is to detect the infestation. In the United States there is hardly a State that has not passed or has under consideration an Act prohibiting the importation of infested stock, but they all rely on inspection,