

agricultural papers. But unfortunately, in that part of Canada where this insect does every year a large amount of harm, the farmers themselves are not taking the proper amount of care. I am now arranging in accordance with the suggestion of the Chairman, made at last meeting, to send out a leaflet to farmers in the districts where the Pea Weevil occurs, and letters have also been written to the newspapers urging the farmers to treat their seed in the spring before sowing, which is the most practical remedy, as there are several members present to-day who were not at the last meeting I will recapitulate what I said at that meeting.

The eggs of the Pea Weevil are laid by the female insect, which is a beetle, on the pea-pod; the egg hatches and the grub eats its way inside the pod, and then attacks one of the peas; it bores its way into the forming pea, and remains there for the rest of its life. The hole of entry is very small, and all trace of it soon disappears. In some seasons this insect becomes full grown and emerges in the autumn; but the general rule is that it remains in the seed during the winter, and in the spring is carried to the field, in the seed. There it hatches out among the growing peas, and attacks the crop again. A practical remedy is for farmers to treat the seed before sowing. This year it will be necessary to treat it in the spring, but the better treatment is to fumigate the seed as soon as possible after it is threshed in the autumn. The chief trouble is that seed peas are not always threshed so early as I am advising, because it has not been considered necessary in the past to do so; they have been kept in barns, and threshed during the winter as occasion permitted. But it will be far better for farmers in the future, now that the weevil has become such a serious enemy, to take special measures to control it, and if they live in a section where peas are infested to the extent they are now by the Pea Weevil, every farmer should treat his seed as soon as possible after reaping. The insect is not then either fully developed or in a torpid condition, and is more susceptible to injury with the remedy. Each pea, too, is injured to a less degree than later on, because all the time the insect is there, it is eating the substance of the pea. Nature provides in the seed pea as in the case of the seeds of all plants, a sufficient amount of food for the young plant, to sustain it and bring it forward so that the best results may be obtained. If, therefore, part of that food is destroyed by an insect, the strength of the plant grown from such an injured seed will be reduced. Common sense tells us that an injured plant can no more produce strong progeny than an injured animal. Many of the weevilled pease are injured in a vital part, the germ, and do not grow at all. When these circulars are sent out, I hope by their means to stir up an interest in the matter among farmers living in the districts where this insect occurs injuriously, so that they will fumigate their seed this spring, and again in the autumn before the winter comes on. There is always a tendency among farmers to think that it is of no use for one man to do what is right if his neighbours persist in doing wrong; but this is a wrong principle altogether, and there is every reason for farmers themselves to do what they know is right. In this particular matter, at any rate, I am sure more people will follow a good example than anyone has any idea of. The tendency in the world is, I believe, for most people to do what is right, and especially if a man thinks he is going to derive a benefit from his work, he will do so.

SPRAYING.

It is only 17 years ago that spraying fruit trees to protect crops from injurious insects was first spoken of in Canada. This was before the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association. The word spraying, with its present signification, was never heard in Canada before that, and now there are hundreds of thousands of people all over Canada who are spraying their trees as a regular practice.

By Mr. Wilson:

Q. What country did this originate in?

A. In the United States and in Canada.