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12.08	Clarence	10.37
12.24	Bridgetown	11.21
12.50	Granville Ctr	11.55
3.07	Granville Vy.	12.40
3.21	Kensdale	12.54
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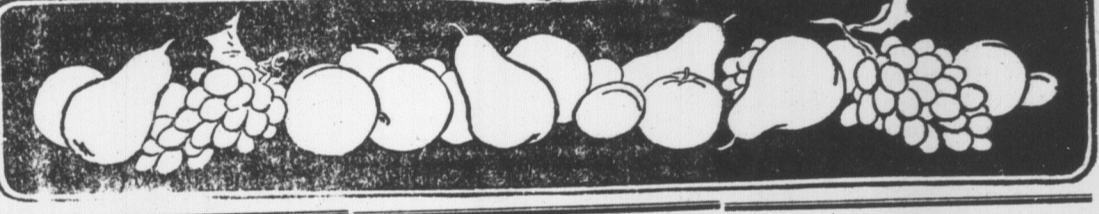
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J. W. ROSS
 Bridgetown, April 11

Suppression of Insect Pests.
California Leads the World, By Introducing Natural Parasites to Combat Injurious Insects.

(The Brooklyn Chronicle)
 To the Editor of The Chronicle—
 Massachusetts and Federal authorities at Washington may be expected to criticism by the nation for an unnecessary spread of the gypsy and the brown-tail moth pests. Doubts have stirred private citizens to action. Years of attention and the expenditure of millions of dollars in Massachusetts, instead of bringing relief, now find those pests in nearly all New England, and threatening the country by natural and by suspected criminal means. Science and sense appear to have been in a costly conflict. Insect pests are one of the most powerful forces in nature. Man's inability to control that force, save by turning nature against nature, is a truism well known to the best experts on this, and with those whose means of support depend on holding insect pests in check. Our loss from insects alone in the United States is said to amount to four hundred millions of dollars annually, principally from imported insects.
 In about a month or two the moth caterpillars will begin to appear again. At the Brookline town meeting of last January the town did not approve of a \$25,000 contract with California, to introduce the natural enemies of these moths, payment to be conditioned upon success. This was sound, for the town did not understand the matter fully, and what has since been learned—hereinafter summarized in part—shows that no such contract need be made now.
 It has been a short interval between the special town meeting of January 28th, and the famous meeting of March 14th; shorter than was anticipated. Immediately after the January meeting some public spirited citizens of Massachusetts decided that instant action be taken to clear up doubts on this serious matter. They requested the writer to go forthwith to California and be ready to report, before the annual town meeting convened, on just what had been done and could be done by that state to combat insect pests by beneficial insects.
 The journey and investigation were completed in twenty-six days, covering about 5,000 miles, and including personal interviews with the most accomplished specialists in the science of parasitology in California, who offered every facility for inquiry for the borders of the borders of Mexico to Sacramento, the capital of California. Investigations were made with experts in the orchards and ranches, and at the state insectaries; inquiries were made of land owners and horticulturists, by quarantine experts, by the world's greatest master of plant breeding, Luther Burbank, and by the Governor of the State. This was an immense task, and the examination of thousands of pages of printed matter from among the most valuable collections that the world perhaps offers on the specialty, as well as hundreds of pages of contemporaneous correspondence, work that was pursued daily both in crossing and recrossing the continent.
 To me it is now very clear that Massachusetts men have erred in no keeping, during these recent years, in closer touch with a section of the world that has been compelled for a quarter of a century or more to pursue this science in its practical application, and to maintain the lead in it.
 It is impossible to impart in this letter all the information obtained by me throughout his instructive journey. Some conclusions are these—
 1. On returning to Santa Barbara, Cal., from work with experts in the field near the Mexican border, a telegram reached me, February 29th that the annual town meeting in Brookline was called for March 14th, and asking suggestions for an article in the warrant to cover the moth issue. I telegraphed back the form of the article now numbered the twenty-eighth, which was intended to cover the subject-matter, although it was that too soon to determine what vote would be best to offer under that article.
 I now suggest that no action be taken at the present time under that article, because, as a sequence of this mission, it is now expected that in May or June next California will of her own volition send some of her experts to Massachusetts, who will examine and report on the situation in this state before further negotiations, if any, will be necessary. The Superintendent of the Massachusetts Commission, Mr. A. H. Kirkland, has recently written to the Commissioner of



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Horticulture in California, Hon. Ellwood Cooper, that he would be very glad to see any of the California experts next summer. It may appear that Massachusetts, though so remiss in introducing parasites, is now doing all that can be well done in the matter. The danger has aroused other states, and nothing but the highest standard of efficiency in Massachusetts can be acceptable to taxpayers at large, or at one if possible for long time.
 2. Whatever may have been written or said to the contrary, beyond question the credit belongs to California men, not alone for taking the initiative in introducing beneficial insects on a large scale, and forcing the movement to a commercial success, but for bringing the important science of parasitology to its highest development and most extended practical application. Of this I brought home ample documentary proof, and the living witnesses to confirm it are numerous. There is today, also, abundant proof to support a courageous and intelligent application of the world's present knowledge of the use of beneficial insects.
 3. In no part of the world had a more accomplished, enthusiastic and intelligent class of practical specialists in the collecting, breeding, study and distribution of beneficial insects been developed, than during the past twenty or thirty years in California, where all insect pests are now practically within the means of control.
 The entire appropriations asked for in California this year for its Horticultural Commission, and for beneficial insect purposes, including funds toward a proposed new fire-proof insectary at San Francisco, appear to be only \$32,000, as against \$225,000, on account of the moth scourge, asked for of the Massachusetts Legislature, in addition to tens of thousands of dollars to come from individual municipalities; and California is nineteen times as large in area as Massachusetts! No wonder that there is astonishment on the Pacific Slope at the Bay State!
 4. The literature upon this subject published in California and Hawaii is the most valuable and most voluminous of coast experts with parasites and predaceous insects, and the everyday practice and precautions observed there as to secondary and tertiary parasites, bear a suggestive contrast to the tepid literature expressed by some New England tyros. That master of the science, Alexander Craw, in his Hawaiian report of 1905, confidently affirms: "There is positively no danger from the intelligent introduction of such insects that prey upon injurious species, for their stomachs will no more digest vegetable matter than that of a lion or tiger's will." And he adds: "The way of fighting our insect enemies is not any longer an experimental one, but has saved millions of dollars of property, besides retaining the value of adjoining property."
 5. A mere entomologist, whatever his rank as a classifier or museum collector, or whatever his official position, is to be relegated to the background in effecting relief by beneficial insects, when his academic attainments are contrasted with those of experienced parasitologists. It is the earnestness of a reputed "entomologist," Prof. Leopold Trounstein, that Massachusetts can charge its present gypsy moth scourge.
 6. The territory of Hawaii, and the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association representing the great sugar interests of those islands, did not look to Washington or to Massachusetts for help, when in recent years they were forced to fight insect pests. But to California, and they secured one of that state's greatest experts, Alexander Craw, at double his former salary, rather than lose his invaluable services, and they also acquired from California one of the world's greatest searchers for parasites, Albert Koebele, who is also the world's pioneer worker in introducing beneficial insects to check the spread of objectionable plants, wherein marvelous results are already attained.
 7. Western Australia also ignored Washington and Massachusetts, notwithstanding their large expenditures in entomological work, and made a joint contract with California, by which each pays one-half to maintain some of the world's most famous searchers and beneficial insect breeders, to keep down the fruit fly, the codlin moth, and other insect pests. It is California that now furnishes the directing spirit in this joint work, through the Hon. Ellwood Cooper, the state's veteran leader in this aid to progressive civilization.

his charge." "On the other side are the practical entomologists, who bear the agriculturalists calling for aid against the ravaging hosts of minute insect foes, and who say, 'We are not concerned as to what the insect is, we want to know what it does. If it is a fighter on the side of the agriculturist, we want him in millions; and so they go their way searching for the farmer's friends, heedless of the thousands of forms useless to him, each one of which, however, would claim attention in turn from the academic entomologist.' "With the success of the past in evidence before us, coupled with the so far well sustained contention that 'no insect is a pest in a country where it is indigenous,' it would seem an act of wanton disregard for the immense possibilities possible to the state were we to lapse into the do-nothing policy of some other states. The longer they continue on that course, the better start secured by our growers and the greater will be the attraction we can offer to settlers from overseas."
 The committee concluded that Mr. George Comper, the famous insect searcher in their employ, who has circled the world seven times in his hunts for parasites, should be met at Colombo in Ceylon, or other convenient port, by an officer from the Department who would be competent to convey home what Mr. Comper might find, so that "twice the work would be accomplished" within a given time.—(Journal Depart. of Agriculture of Western Australia, Sept., 1906, p. 175.)
 12. In December, 1905, the amount of woodland infested with the gypsy moth in Massachusetts was put at 365,265 acres, valued at \$9,894,885, or \$27.08 per acre; while the woodland in the rest of the state was then valued at \$14,041,195,729 acres, or \$12.81 per acre. (Mass. Pub. Doc. No. 73, Jan., 1906, p. 105.) The value of the fruit industries alone in California is put at from \$50,000,000 to \$50,000,000 annually.
 While the woodlands of Massachusetts have a large value, yet as an economic problem they have not received the protection California has been compelled to give to its orchards. But every resource the world can offer should now be brought to bear to protect Massachusetts and the neighboring states. The most cordial relations and frankest interchange of experiences are to be encouraged between Massachusetts and California in this mutual and serious matter. Governor Gillett of California expressed his hearty approval of co-operation within the powers given by law.
 13. The legal right of California to spend a part of its state horticultural appropriation in any other state or country, was favorably passed upon by Governor Pardee of California by an opinion in writing, dated October 26, 1904, and arose in connection with the investigation of the orange maggot, 2,000 miles away in southern Mexico. That opinion was put "on the ground of protective measures in the benefit of the Horticultural interests of California," as secured by Section 5 of the California Agricultural Act of 1903.
 The joint agreement between California and Western Australia, each paying one-half of the expenses, is between two states 7,000 miles apart, employing men in insectaries and men to travel throughout the world.
 14. Correspondence has been initiated by Hon. Ellwood Cooper, the State Commissioner of Horticulture in California, for a World's Convention to be held at Sacramento, with the hope of delegations from many states and countries, aiming at the formation of a union to carry on parasitic work, which would simplify and very much decrease its expense.
ALFRED D. CHANDLER,
 Brookline, Mass., March 13, 1907.

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