

the Federal Government the necessity for prompt action to either prevent the importation of American trees or have them so thoroughly inspected at certain ports of entry (all shipments being confined to these ports) that infected trees cannot further be distributed throughout the Province. All efforts within will be of little avail if the infected trees are allowed to be imported in the future.

Already many States in the Union are taking action, one against the other, and inaugurating laws to stamp out the dread pest, and we, whose interests are so largely bound up in the industry of fruit-growing, must ask our Government to take effective measures to prevent a further spread of the scale.

The Executive of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association took it upon themselves to call a meeting of the fruit growers to take measures for the destruction of this pest, and Prof. James Fletcher, of Ottawa, and Prof. J. H. Panton, of Guelph, were sent to the meeting, which was held at an orchard in Niagara which was supposed to be infested with the scale. There we found that all reports were true, and discovered that the orchard was seriously affected.

Representations were made to the Department of Agriculture for Ontario, and in response to our request Mr. Orr was appointed Inspector, and he has been busily engaged during the season in locating infected orchards.

Later we found that the pest has been more generally distributed than at first supposed, and in Essex, where so many American trees have been planted, the pest has greater foothold even than in the Niagara district.

I believe that the Hon. Mr. Dryden is at present preparing a bill to come before the Legislature from which we hope much, and it is for the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association to consider what further steps shall be taken to save our orchards.

You will remember that the Executive decided at the beginning of the year to as largely improve our monthly journal as the state of our finances would admit. It was decided to discard the colored plates that had formerly been used and substitute in their stead photogravure illustrations. The result has been that we have been able to use a larger number of illustrations than ever before, and at a much less expense than it would cost for colored plates each issue.

The increased size of the page, and the increase in number of pages, from forty to forty-eight, is worthy of note. In some issues the number of pages has grown to fifty-six, and if the patronage continues to grow, as we have every reason to believe it will, the size of the journal will still further be increased.

The improvement, not only in the cover, but in the matter of the journal, has, I believe, been very generally appreciated. The most flattering notices been received by myself and our secretary through private letters, and the press of the country and also of the United States have in many instances given us very flattering notices, showing that the step which the Executive have taken has earned the appreciation of the public and the results have justified the expenditure.

This is a move in the right direction, and I have hopes that still greater perfection will be reached, and that our journal will take a still higher place amongst the horticultural productions of the Province, in the near future.

I wish also to congratulate the directors and members of this Association upon the fact that we have now reached a greater number of subscribers than ever before in our history. In 1887 the membership was 1,600. We have gradually increased since that date up to the last year, when the paid membership was over 2,500. Now, the number of paid members is about 3,500. Besides this, there are upon our list about 250 unpaid members, not counted in the above number, who will no doubt renew.

True, there was one year in our history when the membership ran up to 2,800, but this was under extraordinary pressure. The premiums given away to obtain this result were pianos, sewing machines, and other articles of considerable value. We have not resorted to any such unhealthy means of securing subscriptions, but our members are people interested in our work, and are likely to continue with us as permanent subscribers,