

CHAPTER 202, REVISED STATUTES OF ONTARIO.

Whereas the "Act to prevent the Spread of Noxious Weeds and Diseases affecting Fruit Trees," has been found inoperative and practically a dead letter, your Committee begs leave to report the following amendments they would suggest:—

To amend sec. 2, clause 3, to read as follows:—"Such council may, at its first meeting each year and shall on being petitioned by *five* ratepayers appoint at least one inspector to enforce the provisions of the Act, his appointment to be made at the first meeting of the council after such petition has been presented, and his salary or remuneration be determined and paid by the council; and in case a vacancy shall occur in the office of inspector, it shall be the duty of the council to fill the same forthwith.

To amend sec. 8 to read, "It shall be the duty of the inspector to give or cause to be given notice in writing to the owner or occupant of any land containing fruit trees affected with yellows or black-knot, requiring him within five days from the receipt of the notice to deal with such trees in the manner provided by sections 2 and 3 of this Act.

Your Committee begs leave to suggest that your Association respectfully recommends to the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture, the appointment of a Provincial Inspector, whose duties shall be to superintend the carrying out of the provisions of this Act by the local inspector in so far as it relates to the black-knot and yellows, said Provincial Inspector to be paid by the Local Government.

Mr. SMITH: We could not as a Fruit Growers' Association very well recommend the appointment of this inspector whose duty it should be to look after noxious weeds, and that is why we suggested the co-operation of the Farmers' Institute, so that one Inspector might look after both interests.

Mr. JAMES: One difficulty arises at the very outset: How are you going to compel councils to do it that have no interest at the start? Suppose the city of Brantford says: "That is all nonsense; we won't have anything to do with that;" what are you going to do then? I doubt very much the advisability of connecting this with the weed extermination. You can handle the one, but you cannot the other, simply because they are linked together in one statute it does not necessarily follow that the amendment should cover the whole statute. I think the end will be better accomplished by attempting less. One officer for each municipality means over 700 officers in the Province. Members of parliament are going to vote upon that as they think it would be voted upon in their own municipality. Do you think you can get a majority of the members of the House to vote on that, compelling the councils to appoint that officer? They would say: "Black-knot is prevalent principally in certain sections of the Province. They are the ones who want this enactment."

Mr. SMITH: Have the Provincial authorities not power to compel the councils to do this?

A DELEGATE: It is permissive—not compulsory.

Mr. JAMES: Could one man cover the Province as regards black-knot and weeds? We find it cannot be done with regard to bees. I should think the inspector of fruit trees alone would be sufficient.

Mr. ORR: We have a law on our statute books with respect to noxious weeds, and they cannot be controlled. I have 10 or 12 acres that it is utterly impossible to kill all the weeds out of. The inspector should have power to do the work at once—to go into an orchard and cut the trees down, not ask the owner of the property to do it.

Mr. SMITH: We discussed that, and suggested that the decision of the inspector should be subject to appeal by the owner, in case the inspector might make a mistake.

Mr. ORR: The noxious weed law is a dead letter now. Every pathmaster is required to do it now, and it can't be done.

A DELEGATE: Is there a municipality in the Province that the proposed suggestion would not benefit? Is there a country municipality that produces no weeds; or is there a city or town where fruit trees are not grown? If there is, our suggestion would not apply; but there is no municipality in the country in which we cannot find either weeds or fruit trees.

Mr. JAMES: Suppose an inspector were appointed in a certain township; could he go through the entire township and have all the weeds cut down, and the black-knot trees cut down, and send his bill to the council?

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