

# TELLS HOW TO WIPE OUT PEST

### Deputy Fruit Inspector Explains How Caterpillars May be Killed Without Danger

P. M. Hall-Lewis, deputy fruit inspector, has issued the following statement concerning the caterpillar pest, which is much in evidence in Coos County this year:

The prevalence of the Tent Caterpillar pest this spring has caused a flood of inquiries to pour in concerning methods of control and eradication. It is safe to say that every fruit grower is familiar at least with the appearance of the tent caterpillar, and it is immaterial that there are three distinct species to be found in this region, for the reason that all have practically the same habits. The wide range of trees and plants upon which the caterpillars feed, the fact that they appear in various stages of development at all periods throughout the summer, although in greatest numbers in the early months, and the most important consideration that from the mere physical nature of the pest it is immune from injury from application of insecticides to their bodies, all tend to make the Tent Caterpillar a serious problem to the inexperienced grower. Yet with all these apparent difficulties while actual eradication of the pest is practically impossible because of the existence of so much infested forest growth still the control of the pest in and about our orchards and ornamental trees and plants is a surprisingly simple matter. It would be out of the question to find and destroy all or even a large percentage of the nests which have developed upon the wild growths, which means that eradication of the tent caterpillar from the region is practically impossible.

The practice of burning out the nests with a torch, will certainly destroy great numbers of the larvae, and upon large trees would do little damage to the orchard. This practice applied in young orchards might and probably would do irreparable injury to individual young trees, the scaffold of which during the first few years of growth, is the principal care of the grower. The burned limb dies and the tree becomes unbalanced, and the system of pruning to develop a good shaped tree is disorganized. Besides, at the instant when the flame is applied to the nest, numbers of the caterpillars drop off (in only slightly singed condition) upon the lower growths and live on to do their allotted amount of damage. From the above it will be readily seen that the burning method is but a partial remedy, and a very doubtful one at that.

The caterpillars feed upon the foliage of the plant, the calices of the blossoms, and even the petals, but the greatest number of them are abroad before the blossoms appear in the earlier and more minute form of the larvae, and attack the first leaves and calices of the clusters of blossoms. It follows that some remedy in order to be effective and at the same time practical must be that which will destroy the larvae without destroying the fruiting buds. The caterpillar is a "chewing insect." It actually devours tissue. This is in contradistinction to the "sucking insects," which merely suck plant juices for food. Hence were the tissues coated with a food poison, the destruction of the larvae would be accomplished at the cost of considerable damage to the plant, because the poison acts quickly and very little tissue would be devoured. The same remedy which is applied as a preventive against the Codling Moth, the Fruit Tree Leaf Syneta, and other migratory insects of the family of "chewing insects," is likewise effective with the caterpillars. Too little credence is placed in the economic value of the combined sprays. In this climate where the periods of infection from various insects overlap and in some instances coincide, where the attacks of fungi and insects take place at practically the same time, it is hard to understand why the combined spray mixtures are not more generally used. The preparation recommended in the bulletin of this service published November 1912 (for free distribution), has been found most satisfactory and highly effective wherever used. To quote: "The several ingredients in the combined spray mixture each has its particular work to do. The lime-sulphur destroys the scale family and the reproductive spores of the fungus growths thereby eliminating these pests, the lead arsenate is a food poison for all 'chewing insects,' such as the Codling Moth and caterpillars, and the 'Blackhead 40' is a contact insecticide which kills the 'sucking insects' such as the aphid family and the Tingis."

Sprays of reasonable strength may be applied at any season of the year save during the period of bloom, and if intelligently used do not affect the quality of the fruit. It is a well known fact to the horticulturist that the average tree will stand one defoliation and recover if the cause thereof has been controlled before the tree leaves out the second time, which it will do unless defoliation occurs very late in the season, and with little or no impairment of the ultimate vitality of the tree otherwise healthy. Therefore rather than disfigure your trees with torch or knife, it would seem to be more desirable to simply strip off the nests as thoroughly as possible and destroy the larvae secured; then spray the tree thoroughly with the combined mixture, and you will "get" the balance of the pests.

Or if the nests are difficult to reach,

apply the spray without stripping the nests, and spray the ground growths thoroughly beneath the trees to "get" these caterpillars which have dropped off. The result must be the same as far as your trees are concerned. Then take time by the forelock and profiting by the experience of the current season, get your trees coated before the egg masses hatch next spring, and what you have not destroyed this season, together with what infestations may occur from outside sources during the interim, will be destroyed next spring before the caterpillars have developed to the proportions of a menace to your trees.

## THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

The Times will be pleased to publish letters from its readers on all questions of public interest. Each letter must be signed by the writer and so far as possible be limited to 200 words. In publishing these letters it must be understood that The Times does not endorse the views expressed therein; it is simply affording a means for the voicing of different opinions on all questions affecting the public welfare.

### COMMUNICATED.

A request having been made for the numbers on my watch and pistol that were stolen at Bay City, I give them as follows: An Iver Johnson five-shooter, No. 14444. An American Waltham watch, heavy silver, screw cases, marked 925 fine, Fahy. No. of watch-works, 3671864. No. of case, 5811820, 15 jewels.

I am losing no sleep over the loss of the articles stolen; never expect to see them again; but, in view of the fact that a dragnet is extending for the capture of certain sneak thieves who have watches "to burn," and who sell valuable watches at a discount approximating 90 per cent, I supply the numbers. No doubt but that two sneaks who were working at the mill did the trick at my residence. I feel positive on that. Other residents of this locality have suffered losses. For the recovery of the watch and pistol, I offer nothing. For the identification of the sneaks I offer ten dollars. That old gag at selling spectacles at 50 cents apiece is rotten in comparison with selling watches worth 50 dollars at the low figure of four and one-half dollars, and ladies' watches for less.

When a thief works temporarily and adopts a loose method of selling his plunder, even if it is imported, he may be adjudged non compos mentis, and an appropriate subject for the insane asylum.

A valuable time piece, a good pistol and ten dollars, if the party recovers the goods. I think is a fair contribution on my part for evidence.

Get busy! No more questions answered.

Goods, or no goods, ten dollars for he evidence.

STAR KEY, Bay City.

Not John Cottell. Editor Coos Bay Times: In an edition of your paper you said that I, W. Stewart and his wife held a mortgage against me. Now I want to state that I do not know and have never had any dealings with Mr. Stewart, so consequently he holds no mortgage against me. I want you to rectify the mistake in your paper.

Respectfully yours, JOHN COTTELL, Empire, Oregon.

### SNOW AT LAKE TAHOE

California Highway Commission to Clear Mountain Route for Autos. LAKE TAHOE, May 23.—In order to open the road through Emigrant Gap to Lake Tahoe, the state has engaged this week about 200 men who are removing the snow. It is expected next Monday will see the highway cleared of all drifts so that automobiles and other vehicles can travel without hindrance. The highway is in excellent condition.

### FEARS GYPSEY MOTH

California Fruit Growers are Warned Against Eastern Pest. SACRAMENTO, May 23.—State Horticultural Commissioner A. J. Cook is sending out warnings through the state against the gypsy moth, which he says threatens to invade California and create havoc. San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin counties have not been obeying the law with respect to precautionary measures, while Los Angeles and other counties south have obeyed it. Every shipment of flowers, trees and shrubs should be inspected, says the commissioner.

The gypsy moth invaded Massachusetts recently and it cost the state \$3,000,000 to rid itself of the pest.

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### MANKIND LOVES FIGHTING.

By Dr. Frank Crane. It is generally assumed as an axiom that all persons want peace. Considering the well-known facts in the career of the human race, this is a curious mistake. For if there is any one thing mankind seems to be fond of more than another it is a row.

Man emerges from the mists of prehistoric time fighting.

The oldest implements of the stone age and of the cave dwellers and lake people are not sofas and rocking chairs, but knives, axes, and arrows, with which they chopped one another's heads.

Homer's pages, the old Greek folk songs, are full of heckings and howlings of men. The Iliad is as sanguinary as the Chicago stockyards.

The Romans fought, the Teutons fought, the Celts fought, the Japanese fought, the American Indians fought.

No power appears ever to have been able to eradicate the innate pugnacity of human beings. The Christians were peaceable for awhile at first, but as soon as they got into power they went at one another with the force of a ferocity long pent up. Homosouls and homosouls threw bricks as hard as their names. Aryans and Trinitarians flew at each other's throats. The orthodox burned and tortured the heretic.

We love to explain the simplest things by complex motives. A hundred causes have been adduced for the continued existence of the nuisance of militarism. The real cause is simple. It is that human nature wants to fight.

You can see this in its most undiluted form among small boys. One of them comes up to another and says: "I can lick you."

Whereupon they go to it, hammer and tongs.

Prize fighting will not go out of style for many a year yet; for it is the game of the primeval man; it appears to an instinct much older than that of money making or reading.

The boy-child loves to pound things and people, to make a noise, and to keep up the din of battle according to his lights. The college boy loves to smash windows and street lamps, to haze, scuffle and organize his jinks.

Man is still only half evolved from the brute. He is still a ferocious animal. His canine teeth have not yet disappeared and become bovine molars.

He still considers business and commerce as fighting, politics as fighting, religion as fighting. He understands no way of accomplishing things but by organizing some kind of an army and fighting.

### WILL FIGHT TONIGHT

Jim Flynn and Dublin Giant Matched in San Francisco. SAN FRANCISCO, May 23.—Jim Flynn the Pueblo fireman and James Coffey, the Dublin Giant, will box tonight before the Garden City Athletic Club in this city, both men weighing in at about 195 pounds each. The bout will be ten rounds and some lively work is expected, the foreigner being anxious to make a showing.

### SAILORS TO BUILD

Purchase Lot in San Francisco on Which to Erect Home. SAN FRANCISCO, May 23.—The Sailors Union of the Pacific has purchased a lot on Clay street at a cost of \$42,000 on which a permanent headquarters, fully equipped with shower baths, gymnasium, reading rooms, hall and offices, will be erected at a cost of \$100,000.

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