Proceedings of the Eighth Annual Meeting of Horticultural Inspectors¹

(Continued from the February issue)

Evening Session, December 26, 1909, Continued.

President Washburn presiding.

The President presented Professor Surface, who read the following paper:

RESULTS OF VARIOUS REMEDIES FOR SAN JOSE SCALE, IN PENNSYLVANIA ORCHARDS, AS SEEN BY THE INSPECTORS IN THE ORCHARDS

By H. A. SURFACE, *Harrisburg, Pa.*

[Withdrawn for publication elsewhere]

WHAT SHOULD BE THE FORM OF OUR CERTIFICATES?

By FRANKLIN SHERMAN, JR., *Raleigh, N. C.*

For some years I have been considering whether we entomologists (especially those of us in the eastern states) can devise some method of bringing our certificates of nursery inspection more nearly in line with the facts as they really exist. I violate no confidence in saying that the certificates as now issued in all of our eastern states are

¹A CORRECTION

It appears that Professor Headlee was incorrectly reported on pages 80-81 of our February issue. The following is therefore inserted at his request and gives the tenor of his remarks.—Ed.

The Farmer's Institute organization in Kansas has been able to engage a practical, up-to-date horticulturist. This man goes about the state conducting the fruit-production side of the regular institutes. He meets with fruit growers, finds out their problems, and gives them the benefit of his long and successful experience. On request he visits individual fruit plantations, looks carefully into local conditions, and suggests methods whereby the yield may be improved.

In general, our people do not know how to grow high grade fruit, although our regular fruit growers produce fruit that will compare very favorably with the best grown in the country. The Farmer's Institute organiza-

misleading to one not on the inside. We all know how binding are the conditions which have led us into this practice and I cannot say that I am yet quite ready to take a step which shall make North Carolina appear different from all her neighboring states, for such a step could, and probably would, be seized upon by some nurseries in other states and used to our disadvantage, when those very nurseries would likely be no better, and perhaps worse, than our own home nurseries.

Now the essential point of our present system which I object to is this:— We give certificates which are so worded as to plainly imply that the nurseries are “free, or apparently free,” from the San José Scale, and we issue these certificates after scale *has* been found in the nursery, we issue them to nurseries where it has been found with more or less regularity for years past, where we know the scale is well established, and where we are reasonably sure that it will be found in the future. We fully recognize the fact, and freely admit it among ourselves, that it is not practicable, nor would it be just to bar a well-established nursery from trade, when it has won a large number of loyal customers many of whom would rather take the stock of that nursery even without certificate and taking the chance of scale, rather than to deal with someone else. Then again, there is the complication that much of the stock is really sold through agents or advance orders, long before the nursery is inspected.

But perhaps the most irritating fact of all is that if one of us, in the zeal of clearing his conscience and of trying to make the deed square with the word, were to actually knock out every nursery in his state which was found to have San José Scale,— that state might at once become a most profitable field for exploitation by nurseries in other states who were in the possession of certificates that they were “apparently free” and which as a matter of fact might be, and very likely would be, in worse condition than the nurseries that were put

tion is trying, through education, to bring about the production of better fruit. At present the horticulturist does not have many requests for consultation, but the number is increasing and no doubt in a short time he will have far more than he can attend to.

Kansas is a large state and although the eastern and central portions will produce excellent fruit-bearing trees and shrubs, many parts of the west will grow orchards only under irrigation.

In Kansas the fruit institute movement has just made a beginning. The Farmer's Institute, of which the fruit institute is just one phase, is organized and looked after by a special agent known as the Superintendent of Farmer's Institutes. This official has his office at the agricultural college and his work has met with such keen appreciation that the last Legislature voted \$50,000 to carry it forward.

out of business,—for the very entomologist who would be so strict and so conscientious as to take this step is the very one whose state nurseries would likely be in as good condition as any. Hence no one of us has felt that he could afford to take the step, and we have all preferred to compromise ourselves to this extent rather than expose our nurseries to unfair competition and to subject the fruit-growers and farmers of our states to exploitation in the way described.

It seems to me that we have now reached the point where a change should be adopted, or at least tried experimentally. The San José Scale is now so wide-spread through all the eastern states that it is idle to talk of keeping our fruit-growing sections clear of it,—it is already present in almost every locality where there are extensive orchards, and in many such localities it is to be found in practically every orchard. Also it is no longer a pest which must be fought by preventive measures chiefly, for the remedies are so well known that there is no excuse for trees being killed by it *after the owner once knows of its presence*.

Then again let us remember that under the head of "serious insects and diseases" which our certificates are intended to cover, are included such pests as woolly aphis, crown gall, oyster shell scale, brown-tail moth, etc. I cannot believe that all the nurseries which we certify can by any stretch of the imagination be considered as even "*apparently free*" of all these.

I have therefore prepared for the consideration of this meeting a proposed form of certificate which I should like to have discussed. Here it is:—

THIS IS TO CERTIFY:—

That a duly authorized and competent inspector has made inspection of the salable nursery stock of _____ at _____ N. C., to ascertain condition as to insect pests and plant diseases, and said nursery is licensed until the expiration of this certificate.

This certificate may be suspended or revoked for cause.

THIS CERTIFICATE EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 30, 1910.

Dated,—Raleigh, N. C., _____ 1910.

_____,
Entomologist.

I do not see as such certificate would give an unscrupulous nurseryman any advantage which he does not already have, nor do I see that it would take from the entomologist any advantage that he now has. I do not believe that "the ultimate consumer" would care a snap about the changed wording just so his protection is not weakened. We could retain the same privilege which some of us now use, of

requiring other nurseries to get tags from us before shipping into our state,— we could still have the right to destroy infested shipments. Nor do I believe that it would be injurious to those nurseries which are really apparently free from San José Scale.

However, I do a little bit fear that if we were to make such a change in our certificate, there would be some very enterprising nurserymen from some of the states which *might not* adopt the change, who would flood the other states with agents who would tell the people that our state nurseries were admittedly unsafe to buy stock from and then in support would show that we did not give a statement of freedom from scale, while their state did!

Altogether, I must confess that I am not immovably set in my conviction that this scheme would work entirely well, but I would be willing to go home, broach it to the nurserymen and fruit-growers of my state and adopt it for the coming year, if enough others would join with me to give it a really full and fair trial.

Tuesday Evening, December 28, 1909

Discussion in regard to certificates, as proposed by Sherman:

MR. PHILLIPS: In all cases the stock should be examined, and it should be understood that no certificate should go on any stock carrying the San José scale.

My inspectors are instructed not to pass trees that are infested with San José scale. All plants so marked are condemned and destroyed.

PRESIDENT WASHBURN: This is really very interesting. We would like to hear from other members.

MR. PHILLIPS: We have discussed this matter year after year; in fact, we had an important meeting in Washington a few years ago, and discussed about the same idea, although we did not present it in the form of a certificate.

At that time it was decided that the time had not come for making a change. I think Mr. Sherman's ideas are very good, and touch a point on which I would like to get an expression from the Association.

There is always some nurseryman here and there who has lost a few dollars by not keeping his nursery stock clean, and has objections to raise to inspection, and in order to get an understanding as to how this Association feels in regard to this certificate, I would like to make a motion that if such a certificate as Professor Sherman indicates is issued, and has the endorsement of the Association, that it shall not

cover a single tree infested with San Jose Scale, any more than any certificate mentioned heretofore; in other words, that the certificate be understood not to cover a single tree infested with San José Scale.

Of course, every one knows that you will find a tree now and then slightly affected. The idea I want to get at is that infested or affected trees should not be sent out from the nursery, and I make a motion to emphasize this point.

PRESIDENT WASHBURN: I think perhaps Mr. Phillips' motion is a little premature. We can use it later on.

MR. S. J. HUNTER: In Kansas when inspection is made and scale is found on a man's premises, regardless of whether it is in his nursery stock or in his orchard no certificate of inspection is issued. The nursery stock receives a tree to tree inspection and all stock destroyed within dangerous proximity of any stock found infested. The stock which is left is subjected to the standard fumigation process under the immediate direction of an inspector. Each consignment of this stock is accompanied by a special tag stating that such has been fumigated and giving the exact invoice of the consignment.

MR. BURGESS: Although I was not present when the paper was read, I would suggest that the certificates should show that the nursery had been examined and that the stock contained in each shipment was apparently free from injurious insects and plant diseases. I can see no deception in issuing such a certificate even if a slight infestation was found in the nursery at the time of inspection, provided the inspector has taken every precaution to free the premises from infestation and that he is satisfied that the stock shipped is free from pests as stated in his certificate. If the stock is fumigated before shipment I believe a certificate to that effect is an advantage.

PRESIDENT WASHBURN: I think the statement which Mr. Burgess just made is right to the point. I believe this is a matter which can safely be left to the good sense of the inspectors. Our common sense will tell us when a nurseryman has good stock, and if he is entitled to his certificate. I do not believe any of us would give a man a certificate if he did not deserve it.