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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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REPORT OF CHIEF INSPECTOR UNDER  
CODLIN MOTH ACT.

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



## REPORT OF CHIEF INSPECTOR UNDER CODLIN MOTH ACT.

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*Office of Chief Inspector, Hobart, 31st May, 1892.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to furnish my Report upon the working of the Codlin Moth Act for the season ending on the 31st May, 1892.

With a view of affording accurate information to the Government, I issued in March of the present year a Circular to the Chairman of each of the Fruit Boards and to the Inspectors in charge of the Districts under the direct supervision of the Department, desiring them to furnish me with replies to the following queries :—

Is there any decrease in the Codlin Moth in your District ?

If so, name the orchards cleaned and the means adopted ? Give nature and strength of mixture in the event of spraying having been resorted to ?

If there is no decrease, give what you consider the reason of the failure ?

Replies have been received from the majority, with the result that they almost unanimously report a decided decrease in the pest, which in nearly all cases they attribute to the use of bandages and the careful picking and destruction of infected fruit.

In several Districts instances are given in which occupiers have been successful in completely cleaning their orchards. This is most notable in Brighton and Richmond, Midland, North West Bay, Port Cygnet, and Longford ; while these Districts and others report that there are many orchards in which the grub has been so much reduced that there is every reason to believe that they will become clean during the ensuing season if the same amount of care and attention continues to be bestowed upon them.

Most of the cases above mentioned, however, have had the advantage of being isolated, and consequently free from the danger of having the owners' efforts rendered abortive through re-infection from the orchards of others less careful in carrying out the Regulations.

Spraying has been used only to a limited extent, the consensus of opinion appearing to be against the use of arsenical compounds, inasmuch as the amount of fruit saved by their use does not compensate the grower for other disadvantages.

A variety of reasons are assigned for the failure in cases where no decrease has been observed, but they are nearly all comprised in the following :—

1. That in those portions of the colony in which fruit-growing is not followed up as a means of livelihood the Regulations are carried out only in a perfunctory and careless manner ;
2. The height and size of trees, especially pear, which renders the complete picking of infected fruit almost an impossibility ;
3. The harbour for grubs in the vicinity of such trees ; and
4. The want of funds in one or two Districts, owing to their small acreage, which are insufficient to meet the expenses attached to a thorough inspection.

Notwithstanding these reports, I feel constrained to remark that in my opinion the most successful agency has been the season, wet and cold weather up to the end of December having accomplished good work for orchardists.

Since the beginning of January, however, the Moth has been much more active, and many gardens have suffered from its presence. Prosecutions have been instituted to compel the careless occupiers to comply with the law. Still sufficiently stringent action is not adopted in some Fruit Districts, owners of neglected orchards being allowed far greater latitude than is prudent. The

law is thus permitted to be infringed, to the injury of orchardists who show a desire to suppress the ravages of the grub. There is no excuse for this laxity on the part of those administering the Act, when it is evident that the Bench of Magistrates (in Hobart particularly) grasp the gravity of the situation by having inflicted penalties commensurate with the offences.

I still adhere to my opinion expressed in all prior Reports, viz., that to cope with the Codlin Moth pest early picking of all infected fruit and bandaging the trees will be and is the most successful method of obtaining the desired result, short of the picking of the entire crop so soon as formed. The reports from the Fruit Boards given above bear out the success of this course as against spraying or other remedies.

Spraying with Paris Green and "Oxalite" have, I think, been fairly tested, to the dismay and consternation of some orchardists, who propounded a remedy without a trial. In several orchards in which these remedies had been used I found that the foliage had been partly or wholly destroyed. This no doubt prevents the fruit, which in some cases is spotted from the spraying, from attaining its full size. In one orchard I noticed the trees killed, and in another the next year's fruit-buds injured.

I am very pleased to find that the Government Entomologist, although favourably disposed towards spraying in one of his earlier lectures, has since through the Press written adversely to this mode of attacking the Codlin Moth, taking as his standpoint the injurious effect it is likely to have upon the shipment of apples and pears into the English market from the deposit upon the fruit of poisonous substances. Attention of the authorities in England has been called to the American fruit so treated as likely to be injurious to the consumer. I feel convinced that any producer who can forward his fruit to England with an assurance that it is not so treated will receive a decided advance in price over sprayed fruit.

I give the Customs Return of fruit exported to London, which shows the rapid development and importance of the Tasmanian fruit-growing industry:—

Year.	No. of Bushels.	Value.
1889.....	18,390	£7225
1890.....	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>
1891.....	129,391	£46,843
1892.....	186,415	£47,797

I apprehend that disappointment in prices will result this season when account sales are in the hands of some shippers, from the fact that under-sized fruit has been forwarded, which alike injures the particular brand of the shipper and indirectly the shipment as a whole.

It is a well-established fact that when there is a promising outlook for produce some unscrupulous person will be found rash enough, after once succeeding in passing off his trash, to a second-time attempt through his suicidal action to jeopardise a coming industry by forwarding an inferior article. The fruitgrowers of the Colony generally must suffer from such action. I have long considered it necessary to register shipping brands, so that a certain protection might be ensured to honest traders. Shippers might form themselves into a body for this purpose, stipulating that their consignments shall be open to inspection by some authorised agent, or an inspector, who, on passing the fruit as suitable for export, shall give a certificate to that effect. In the event of its being under-sized and unfit for export to London it shall be excluded from the freight list, and the space either allotted to those who require more, or be paid for by the intending shipper of the condemned fruit: moreover, the offender's brand shall be erased from the membership list. It would be unnecessary to open all cases, but a few might be taken incidentally from consignments to test their quality.

I desire to express my satisfaction at the manner in which Inspectors under the immediate control of the Department have performed their various duties—in nearly all cases appreciable advance having been made towards the eradication of the Moth in the Districts under their charge. This is particularly noticeable in the Midland and Brighton and Richmond Fruit Districts, supervised by Mr. Tasman Morrisby, whose Report is appended.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS A. TABART, *Chief Inspector.*

*The Hon. the Treasurer.*

Glenorchy, 29th April, 1892.

SIR,

IN reply to your circular letter of the 14th March, 1892, I have the honor to furnish you with the following particulars as to the decrease of the Codlin Moth, &c. in the Districts under my supervision:—

There is a considerable decrease of the Codlin Moth in the Districts of Midland and Brighton and Richmond, and the attached list gives the names, &c. of those occupiers who now have clean orchards where they were once infected.

There are a great number of orchards that were three years ago very badly infected, but now have very little grub indeed, and this has been accomplished by carefully attending to the Regulations under the present Codlin Moth Act.

There are other orchards—but few in number I am glad to say—where but little care or interest has been displayed; and where the Act has only been carried out by compulsion I find the Codlin Moth almost as numerous as ever.

I feel sure the pest will not be exterminated unless by a comprehensive measure dealing with the whole of the infected orchards, by removal of fruit for two seasons before it becomes infected—*i.e.*, in the earliest stage.

I am satisfied that the present Act is doing a large amount of good, and have no hesitation in stating that it has even now accomplished more than it was thought it would upon its inception.

Greater care is needed in the treatment of infected fruit immediately upon its removal from the tree, more frequent inspection, and a higher minimum penalty for conveying infected fruit from one place to another.

I have, &amp;c.

TASMAN MORRISBY, *Inspector.*THOS. A. TABART, *Esq., Chief Inspector, Hobart.**LIST of Orchards that were once infected but are now clean.*

## FRUIT DISTRICT OF MIDLAND.

<i>Area.</i>	<i>Place.</i>	<i>Name of Occupier.</i>	<i>Means adopted.</i>
Acres.			
$\frac{1}{2}$	"Lowe's Park"	Hon. James Gibson	By carrying out Regulations under present Act.
$\frac{1}{3}$	Oatlands	W. G. Stansfield	Ditto.
$\frac{1}{2}$	Ditto	William Thomas	Ditto.
1	Jericho	R. Harrison	Removing and burning infected trees.
1	"Woodland Park"	R. O'Connor	By carrying out Regulations under present Act.
$\frac{1}{2}$	"Lemont"	A. Headlam	Ditto.
$\frac{1}{2}$	Campbell Town	W. Tofft	Ditto.
1	"View Point"	Emma Gatenby	All trees cut off below fruit-bearing branches.

## FRUIT DISTRICTS OF BRIGHTON AND RICHMOND.

5	Bagdad	A. Graf	By carrying out Regulations under present Act.
5	Ditto	Charles Matthews	Ditto.
3	Broad Marsh	Henry Johnston	Ditto.
3	Black Brush	James M'Shane	Ditto.
1	Ditto	W. and J. M'Gann	Ditto.
3	Broad Marsh	C. E. Terry	Ditto.
$\frac{1}{2}$	Bagdad	David Hyland, jun.	Ditto.
2	Ditto	David Hyland, sen.	Ditto.
1	Lower Jerusalem	W. J. Hume	Ditto.
4	Old Beach	F. Cloak	Ditto.
$\frac{1}{2}$	Tea Tree	Joseph Barwick	Ditto.
$\frac{1}{3}$	Black Brush	James M'Donnell	Ditto.

TABLE showing Acreage of Orchards for 1890-91 and 1891-92.

District.	Acreage.				Remarks.
	1890-91.	1891-92.	Increase.	Decrease.	
Brighton & Richmond	765	803	38	...	
Circular Head.....	114	93	...	21	
Cumberland.....	160	156	...	4	
Devon, West.....	341	367	26	...	
Fingal.....	151	227	76	...	
Franklin.....	799	812	13	...	
Frankford.....	...	59	...	...	New Board.
George Town.....	215	215	...	...	
Glamorgan.....	217	204	...	13	
Glenorchy.....	1239	1272	33	...	
Gordon.....	287	304	17	...	
Hobart.....	690	453	...	237	
Huon, North.....	687	713	26	...	
"  Upper.....	274	285	11	...	
"  Central.....	499	535	36	...	
"  South.....	150	124	...	26	
Launceston.....	907	887	...	20	
Lilydale.....	...	144	...	...	Last year included in Launceston.
Longford.....	810	774	...	36	
Longley.....	109	...	...	...	
Mersey.....	503	589	86	...	
Midland.....	274	268	...	6	
New Norfolk.....	1172	1228	56	...	
North West Bay.....	170	180	10	...	
Port Cygnet.....	803	854	51	...	
Queenborough.....	500	495	...	5	
Ringarooma.....	202	208	6	...	
Spring Bay.....	119	121	2	...	
Sorell.....	449	445	...	4	
Tasman's Peninsula.....	185	211	26	...	
Wellington.....	210	208	...	2	
Westbury & Deloraine	573	491	...	82	Last year included Frankford.