

AN EFFECTIVE INSECTICIDE.

Commissioner Gunnis Perfects an Apparatus for Spraying Trees.

All Kinds of Parasites Can be Easily Destroyed—War on Scale and Red Spider Pests—Operations.

For several months past Horticultural Commissioner Gunnis, of San Diego, Cal., has been working on a device for spraying orchard trees. He recognizes that while the gas process is effective, it is expensive, and in inexperienced hands it is dangerous; also that the kerosene emulsion, under the approved formula and when thoroughly prepared, was a complete insecticide. He therefore went to work to perfect a process for spraying which should be thorough and inexpensive. Colonel Gunnis recently gave the County Supervisors an exhibition of the results accomplished.

The working apparatus is all on the platform of a light wagon. On the front end is a tank with a capacity of 100 gallons of emulsion. Back of that is a small electro-vapor engine, which operates a double-action, high pressure cylinder pump. To the pump eight lines of hose may be attached. To the end of each hose is a bamboo cane, entirely perforated, and from six to ten feet in length. The liquid passes from the pump through the hose and comes out through a spray nozzle at the end of the cane. In operation the cane is poked in, about and all over the tree to be sprayed, the longer canes being used for taller trees—more particularly olive trees. The pump can be worked at a pressure of 200 pounds, and the spray thus forced through is very fine and very searching.

"No insecticide ever invented excels the kerosene emulsion when properly mixed," explained Colonel Gunnis. "Our object was to find a way to apply it thoroughly and at little cost, and we have succeeded. This process can be applied at about half the cost of any other method. Twenty-five to thirty acres of four-year-old lemon or orange trees can be treated in a day with these machines and four men. It will destroy the red spider as well as the scale."

He has also prepared a plant for the preparation of the coal-oil emulsion, which consists of coal oil, whale oil soap and water in certain proportions. But the value of the emulsion depends most entirely on the thoroughness of the mixture. As prepared by Gunnis the substance looks like milk, so thoroughly is it mixed. The best of whale-oil soap—85 per cent oil—is secured and is first rolled out into a thin sheet. It is then heated and mixed under high pressure. He is elated over the success of these efforts to secure a cheap and effective insecticide, and believes a difficult problem of agriculture has been solved.

HAD HIS EYE ON ARGON.

Inventor Edison Knew of Gas in the Atmosphere.

Thomas A. Edison has recently been reading up on argon, the newly-discovered gaseous constituent of the atmosphere, and on the experiments of Lord Raleigh and others abroad, says the New York Sun. He said recently that he intended to do some experimenting himself as soon as he could get around to it. "That will probably not be until next summer," he added, "as I am still very busy with my mining operations. I do not know of any investigation into the nature of argon having been made in this country, but doubtless experiments will soon be made all over the world. They will look for argon, and it is quite likely that in looking for it they will find other new elements in the atmosphere."

"The discovery of argon is a fresh evidence of how little we really know. Here is a constituent existing in the atmosphere to a considerable percentage, and yet the air has been analyzed and analyzed for more than fifty years without its presence being suspected. The investigators would withdraw the carbonic acid and the oxygen and say that what was left was nitrogen. Somebody finally noticed that this nitrogen possessed slightly different properties from pure nitrogen obtained in other ways, and the result was that argon was discovered."

"My investigations will be made in connection with my incandescent lamp. Phenomena existing in the lamps which cannot be explained except on the hypothesis of a new element in the atmospheric residuum left in the bulb. Whether argon is responsible for them or not I do not know, but I shall try to find them out. It seems, from investigations already made, that argon is a perfectly inert gas. It has not been found to unite with anything. I believe it is possible, however, that it may unite with incandescent carbon. If it isn't argon that attacks the filament, it may be something else which hasn't been discovered yet."

Mr. Edison has also been working recently on the combination phonograph kinoscope.

"The only trouble," he said yesterday, "is a purely mechanical one. The jar of the machinery impairs the image. When the picture is thrown on a screen the jar is magnified as much as the image. We intend to have a life-size picture of a man speaking which will show the action while the phonograph supplies the words. Then we can have an orchestra playing, with the music and the motions shown by the combination. We'll have it pretty soon, too."

New Stencil Maps.

A series of stencil maps have been introduced in the public schools by Inspector General Atkinson that will, it is believed, prove a great assistance in the study of geography and map drawing. These maps are the invention of Principal Leonaltee of Onomea school, Hilo. They are prepared on thin paper and it is but the work of a few moments to obtain the outline of the map on a blackboard. The outlines are accurate copies of the maps obtained from the survey office, and the system complete is a most useful addition to the school paraphernalia.

NATIVES ARE FAST DYING.

Report of Work by Missionaries in the Marquesas Islands.

A resident of the Marquesas Islands who has long labored among the natives there, says in a private letter recently received in this city:

"The same tale comes from all sources, from officials and traders, from missionaries and travelers, from Protestants and Catholics. All are agreed that this unfortunate people are rapidly dying out, and that their rapid decrease was in a great measure due to their vicious lives. The French authorities are doing what they can, and have now at the eleventh hour prohibited both alcohol and opium. They have, moreover, ordered that all children be sent to school. But once emancipated from school the youth seem to fall back into the ways of their parents."

"The Hawaiian missionary, Kauwealoa, is doing a good work. Such is the report brought by an American trader who knows him well. The same report comes also from an English traveler and philologist, who, however, spoke not from his own knowledge but from recent information. It is the same story as that told by Stevenson. Kauwealoa is generally looked upon as a sterling, upright man who is trying to lead the natives aright, but with no more success than any one else."

"Kekela, the other Hawaiian missionary, is quite feeble. His influence is decidedly not what it was, but still he has about a dozen who cling to him, not that they show any greater favor to the Catholics, who have a very well-appointed mission in Kekela's valley. No; the young men and women especially make light of all kinds of religion. Old Kekela rules his household well in all godliness and honesty, thus setting a good example. Even if they will not listen to his precepts, the testimony of his life remains, and he is evidently greatly respected. The old man is becoming blind; cataract seems to be forming fast. He does not wish to be anywhere else than where he is."

"The testimony given by these two representatives of the Hawaiian churches is most useful and may result in the saving of a remnant."

Madam Mojeska, the Polish actress, who was expelled from Russia recently, is in Berlin, and she has appealed to Ambassador Runyon to intervene in her behalf.



Mrs. Eliza Logree
Westerly, R. I.

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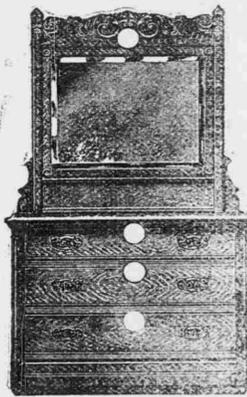
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