

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON QUARANTINE

July 19th, 1924

It has been the experience with most of the horticultural industries of California that as planting increased, and importations from other states and countries continued, plant diseases and injurious insects and scale pests were also introduced, resulting in a heavy yearly expense to the orchardist in an effort to keep them under control. Having heard somewhere that "history repeats itself," and also taken note of reports by experienced authorities of serious pests in other localities, it was thought to be the part of wisdom to endeavor to profit by past experience and prevent the avocado from following the same routine as previous horticultural introductions.

With this in view, President Adams, in the spring of 1923, appointed the undersigned committee to endeavor to secure a quarantine on avocados from Florida and Tahiti. The Federal authorities have since placed the Tahitian fruit under the ban. At the annual meeting in May of 1923 a resolution calling attention to the danger connected with the importation of avocados from Florida was adopted and the Committee was instructed to persevere in the effort to secure such action as should be found necessary. At the semi-annual meeting at Fullerton in the fall of 1923, Director Hecke of the State Department of Agriculture voluntarily called attention to the matter of quarantine and advised us to introduce a suitable resolution at the meeting of the State Fruit Growers to be held at Santa Ana later in the year. Such a resolution was delivered to the Chairman of the Resolutions Committee of the State Fair Growers, but for some inexplicable reason was suppressed in Committee, which was decidedly puzzling to your Committee, as it was on Director Hecke's own motion that the resolution was submitted.

After this experience it was suggested that we endeavor to secure support from other interests, such as the citrus, before approaching the State Department of Agriculture, but owing to the foot and mouth outbreak the time has not hitherto been thought opportune. However, we are now endeavoring to arrange an opportunity to go over the evidence with such other interests as we feel may be of service.

It has been found that a number of insect and scale pests, as well as plant diseases attack the avocado in Florida, and that some of them occasion considerable loss and under California conditions might be even worse. As a single instance, Dr. Moznette mentions a scale which he states to be as serious a pest on the avocado as the purple scale is on the orange and our *State quarantine officials advise that this same scale has been found in shipments of avocado fruits from Florida.*