

DICTYOSPERMUM SCALE

Mr. Dutton: As you know, for years the avocado growers have been alarmed by the menace of Dictyospermum Scale, "Spanish Red Scale," also called "Florida Red Scale," because it is a red scale, very prevalent on avocados in Florida. It has been the greatest pest of the citrus industry in the Mediterranean regions, where the climate is very comparable to our own. The attention of the avocado growers was first called to that menace some years ago through finding it on Florida importations. For years we have been trying to get the State Department to do something so we might keep our groves clean and not make it necessary for the grower to have to undertake costly annual scale control work. "We have always been told that there was no danger of the scale getting into the groves because it could not live in the open. That scale is now on palm and other ornamental trees, as well as avocado trees, in the open in Orange and Los Angeles counties. We have the support of the citrus growers. Mr. Armstrong is right behind us in our endeavor to get this scale cleaned up and prevent its spread. The usual cry is "no funds available." There will be a meeting in Sacramento initiated by a sub-committee of this organization with the help of the citrus men on Monday to appeal to the Governor for an emergency appropriation right now to start to clean it up before it gets into your groves. This work was initiated by this organization, and the citrus men came in whole-heartedly at our solicitation. It is very important that we be represented at that meeting. I have a recommendation to make. A year ago you sent Mr. Carl V. Newman to Washington when the question of quarantine on the Mediterranean fruit fly was up for consideration. Mr. Newman, due to his large citrus and avocado interests, the fact he is president of the Lemon Men's Club and the Calavo Growers of California, ranked very high on that committee. This is a job calling for hard work and all the strength we can bring to bear. The Calavo Growers are going to send Mr. Hodgkin. Mr. Armstrong will represent the citrus growers. I recommend that we send Mr. Newman next Monday to endeavor to get a special appropriation for the eradication of Dictyospermum Scale before we have later to attempt a control that doesn't control.