**Orchard pests and problems**

**Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Monday 27 December 1869, page 2**

On Friday, the 10th instant, a disastrous hailstorm visited Pennant Hills, causing such damage to the orchard farmers as will be long remembered.

**Bowral Free Press (NSW: 1884), Saturday 14 June 1884, page 3**

HARES IN THE FRUIT-GROWING DISTRICTS.

DISTRICTS.

A deputation of fruit-growers, representing Parramatta, Seven Hills, Windsor, and the surrounding- districts was introduced to the minister for mines yesterday week by Messrs. A. H. McCulloch and Abigail, Ms.L.A., the object being to call attention to the depredations inflicted on the fruit-trees in those districts by the hares which have been allowed to escape from the Rooty Hill and other estates. After a few introductory remarks from Mr. McCulloch,

Mr. Robert Power said that people generally were unaware of the mischief the hares were capable of producing among the fruit-trees. It was most discouraging to endeavour to carry on the fruit-producing industry under such circumstances. A bill had been passed for the rabbit nuisance, but as far as they (the speakers) were concerned the rabbits were no harm at all. If no remedy was devised the matter would be a very bad job for the district, as in time things would get so bad that it would be impossible to follow up the industry at all. At a place only 150 yards from his house something like 10 cases of peaches had been eaten by the hares, the market price of the peaches being 12s. per case. The matter had been reported to the department some live or six weeks ago, but nothing had yet come of it.

Mr. Thomas Pye said the following figures might give an idea of the present value and importance of the fruit-growing business. There were 1100 acres, of orchards in Central Cumberland alone, and in the Windsor district there were 3000 acres, and double that amount in or near Ryde, Lane Cove, and Pennant Hills. Altogether about 20,000 acres were at present bearing fruit within a few miles of Sydney; In that acreage there were about 2,000,000 trees and the value of the fruit in the season was about half a million of money. The cost of getting the land ready and planting was £45 per acre. He reckoned that every visit of a hare on his orchard, cost him Is. 6d, and the hares, destroyed not only the young trees, but vegetables, and French beans, which were at present almost impossible to grow on that account. One gentleman had told him (the speaker) that he had recently killed 40 hares with dogs, and there were hundreds, now running loose in the Seven Hills district. The animals also bred twice as quickly as in England. He trusted the minister would show his sympathy with the deputation by placing the hares, under the Noxious Animals Act, and by endeavouring to put a stop, to coursing.

Mr. J. P. Abbott said he need hardly say that he felt astonished to find such a state of things existing at that described by the deputation. He remembered, however, some time ago that it had been proposed in the discussion on the Noxious Animals Act to have hares included in the list of such animals: but the amendment was negatived by a majority of 32 to 17. Mr. Abigail was, he thought, one of those who had voted in favour of the insertion of the word

"hares" at that time. He could assure the deputation that his sympathies were entirely with them; and he thought he should be able to do something for them under the following clause in the Stock Protection Act: - Upon receipt of a petition in that behalf from the board of any district, it shall be lawful for the Government, by proclamation to be published in the Gazelle, to declare that this Act shall be applied in any district to the destruction of any wild animals found to be detrimental to the stock or pasture of the colony, for any period to be named in such proclamation, and thereupon, the provisions of this Act shall be applicable to such animals, and within such district, as fully and to the same effect as if the animals named in such proclamation had been mentioned in the interpretation clause to this act. He would take an early opportunity to bring the matter before the Stock Protection Board for the county of Cumberland and would ask the board to favourably consider the statements just made. He thought that, as far as coursing was concerned, it was nothing but a cruel amusement-—(hear, hear, and "It is") - and he could not understand why such animals, which were really noxious, should have been introduced into this colony. In Victoria the introduction of rabbits for the purpose of sport had now necessitated a yearly expenditure of £70,000 in this colony alone, and in all probability the pests would never be exterminated. There could be no doubt that the hares in time would become a serious nuisance if allowed to go on unchecked. He would do all he could to render every assistance in getting rid of that animal, and, if necessary, he would introduce a bill on the subject in Parliament whenever there appeared to be a sign of quieter times. (Hear, hear.)

The deputation, having thanked the Minister, then withdrew. – S. M. Herald.

**Cumberland Mercury (Parramatta, NSW: 1875 - 1895), Saturday 6 March 1886, page 3**

Pennant Hills.

Weather, Etc. - For some time past the weather has been hot and scorching, but for the past couple of days the atmosphere has been cool. Signs of rain have frequently appeared, but Although much needed it holds off. Some of the old orange trees are drooping and looking quite withered.

BUSH FIRES. - During the past week or two we appeared to be living between bush fires, which, were raging in every direction, but especially to the north and east. One of these fires broke out with great violence on Saturday week, and, fanned by a fresh north-east breeze, almost surrounded an orchard and farm house, but was prevented from doing any serious damage beyond the destruction of about thirty rods of fencing and the scorching of a few fruit trees. Great difficulty was experienced in keeping the fire out of a bush, which is very scrubby and has a lot of dead timber and leaves in it, situated at the rear of the Wesleyan Church. This cost about a dozen willing hands a few hours' hard work, and it was not till one o'clock on Sunday morning that their task was completed. The fire burned all Sunday, and the wind veering to the west, it reached as far as Hornsby by the evening, destroying some fruit trees belonging to a Mr. Duffy, of that place.

REPREHENSIBLE CONDUCT. - Orchardists and gardeners have not only the trouble of protecting their trees and vegetables against hares and other destructive animals, but they are also compelled to be on the alert to protect themselves and their property against the depredations of a band of scoundrels who are leaving their mark in a good many places. It appears that they can scent water melons or choice fruit any distance. A portion of this fraternity, in the occasion of a cottage prayer meeting, took the opportunity of letting down the slip rails leading into three orchards in which are a number of young trees. Fortunately, no cattle were about, otherwise considerable damage might be done. The individuals referred to would do well not to trouble the locality again.

March 3.

**Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney, NSW: 1870 - 1919), Saturday 11 June 1887, page 16**

Parramatta.

FRUITGROWERS’ UNION. - The monthly moating of the Fruitgrowers' Union of New South Wales was held in the Friendly Societies Hall, Parramatta, on Saturday afternoon. Mr. W. Cox presided. Letters were read from authorities in the neighbouring colonies, notifying that, from the description sent by the secretary of the union of the insect found in various orchards in Cumberland, they have no doubt it was the codlin moth. The secretary's report gave the result of the deputation to Sir Henry Parkes concerning the Vine Diseases Bill and correspondence relative to the codlin moth. In regard to the latter, the secretary said that he failed to see how the moth could have been prevented from spreading in the colony in view of the careless system of importing fruit and the indifference shown by fruitgrowers. The report suggested that a horticultural garden be established in connection with the union, to teach boys the science of gardening, &c., and that Lord Carrington, the patron of the union, should be invited to inspect the orangeries of Cumberland. This last matter was left in the bands of the president, vice-president, and secretary. The following motion, on notice by Mr. H. E. Bonnard, was referred to the fruit disease committee: - “That the Government be requested to enact a law similar to the Pastures and Stock Protection Act of 1880, but adapted to the protection of orchards, vineyards, &c., against noxious animals, pests and diseases, providing also for the election of local and central boards, to which all legislative and administrative matters affecting the various branches of agriculture should be submitted." The date of the annual meeting was fixed, for July 16.

How TO MAKE £600 A YEAR. - Mr. F. C. Cox, of Blenheim, Pennant Hills, near Parramatta, has twelve acres of an orange and lemon grove, turning him in £900 per year, and this without the trouble of picking the fruit. Less than £300 will pay all the expenses of production. Mr. Cox's orchard is, however, in a high state of cultivation, and in thorough fertilisation; and the trees are healthy and clean. Mr Cox considers ten acres of fruit land quite sufficient for any family to make a living on.

THE ORANGE GROVES around Castle Hill and Dural are healthy and productive this season. The wet weather has retarded field operations a great deal. Nevertheless, a large area of land will be planted to vines and trees, this year. The roads are heavy; and much difficulty is experienced in getting the fruit to market.

**Australian Star (Sydney, NSW: 1887 - 1909), Saturday 28 July 1888, page 4**

SUMMARY.

Rabbits and frost are injuring the orchards at Pennant Hills.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 28 June 1890, page 8**

Fruitgrowers' Notes

The celebrated Vine Diseases Board have at last thrown up the sponge, and the eradication of phylloxera is now under the Department of Agriculture entirely. We understand that the Department intend to do the work of the Board over again.

**Cumberland Mercury (Parramatta, NSW: 1875 - 1895), Saturday 21 October 1893, page 7**

Pennant Hills.

Black Aphis.

Those orchardists who neglected to spray their fruit trees in the winter, are now beginning to disfigure their fingers with the fangs and molars of envy and remorse. When they look around upon their neighbour's orchards, and see the clean, healthy trees therein, their reflections upon their own happy-go-lucky —or, more correctly speaking— lazy methods of working cannot be otherwise than unpleasant. The black aphis is with them generally, but

more particularly upon the orange and peach trees; as that prospects for the coming season are decidedly bad.