ANITUAL AUPORT FOR 1958

of the

BUREAU OF INSECT PAST COMBOL

The activities of the Bureau of Insect Pest Control actually center around two basic problems - the first an insect, the Gypay Noth and the second a fungus disease, or Dutch elm disease.

For some 70 years this state expended millions of dollars in an annual attempt to control the terrific depradations of the Gypsy Moth. For the past 10 years, through the use of DDT in serial sprays, this insect bas finally been brought under control. Under more cooperative conditions the Gypsy Noth could have been entirely eliminated in our state - with only boundary infiltrations to watch for. But, despite all former experiences of alouing up before the job was completed Massachusetts is again following the previous pattern of false economy, and, for the 1950 opring season the Bureau was prevented from even starting an aerial program in two countles. From the trapping survey in the fall of 1957 this Bureau had definite knowledge of the extent and intensity of Gypay Noth conditions in those two countles and had already started mapping procedures for the areas heavily infested, when we were informed that, for economy purposes, our insecticide funds would be withheld. While these finds (roughly \$33,000.) were far from sufficient, state leadership and insecticide to that amount would have furnished the required incentive to the involved counties and towns, and s cooperative serial apray was a possibility for at least one county. When it became known that no state cooperation would be available all local activity ceased. As a result the Cypsy Woth has been given a whole year, unsolested, to breed, apread and defoliate - the presently infested 250,000 acres can easily become 600,000 acres of energency status in 1959. Insects wait for no

man, nor do seasons, and a false idea of "economy" will be no deterrent to the Cypsy Moth activities this season. The value of aerial appray in this state is well known as a definitely economical fact and appray programs, when and where necessary, should never be halted or impeded by either ill-advised economy moves or political desires. At the present moment our facties of combatting the Gypsy Moth have reverted to the costly methods of 40 years ago, and every indication leads to a statement that Massachusetts does not wish to rid itself of the Gypsy Moth. We have definite proof of the results obtainable, we have the knowledge and the equipment - and we still have the Gypsy Moth because our resources are not being used. The total use of our facilities for 1958 was confined to 10,000 acres of state property apprayed in the usual manner.

In much the same category is the lack of interest in the Inten elm disease program, despite the bureau's demonstration of control - a program available and needle by every city and form. In this instance we refer to "control" only, as we doubt that Dirich ele disease will over be "climinated", as the Cypsy Moth could be. With state funds and facilities the bureau initiated and cerried on for 3 years a simple and economical control program in the worst congested area of Dutch alm disease than known to exist within the state. The procedures, results and costs were publicated and in scattered areas the program slowly nathered momentum. The bureau concentrated on demonstrational assistance and education for several years, with municipal interest slowly improving. This interest was greatly decreased on the occasion of the hurricane and tornado - in each instance a year's work in stricken and adjacent areas was viped out. Appropriations for continuance of the progrem were at rock bottom for two years, but for the past three years a considerable injetus has been evident at municipal level. The bureau is now assisting, on the relabursement status, some 37 tours as compared to 11 a few years ago. The bulk of our cooperation now consists of helping to remove the larger condenned elms, requiring large chain saws, winches or derricks which

few small towns possess. Our teaching program for scouting and the taking of samples needs but little of our time, but the increase in removal requests has several times found us unable to meet more than 40% of the demand. This is the result of eight years constant pressure on town officials to take part in a program which affects the entire state. Our greatest problem is to secure equal efforts in adjoining towns, and we are hopeful that pending legislation will be beneficial in this respect. It may equally aid in the prompter removal of eless on private property - a phase of this work which has undermined our efforts for at least eight years.

But again, just when bureau employees felt slightly optimistic the economy program already referred to stepped in to seriously hamper our part in the program, - to cite an example, an order for chain saws placed on October 28, 1957 was delivered on July 10, 1958. During the interval our crews arrived to help towns with worn out and decrepit equipment. Similarly our order (amount \$245.00) for small tags which are furnished to the towns was refused. The bureau has worked for six years to have local officials affix these small tags to each elm at the time of condemnation for later positive identification. Suddenly someone not even connected with our work decides to undo all this work-for a saving of \$245.00? In having to inform the towns that Massachusetts could not afford \$245.00 for another 2-year supply of tags the department lost valuable prestige - worth much more than the \$245.00 involved. This, in addition to the fact that the bureau will again be faced with the task of inducing the towns to resume the use of the tags.

All of the sums referred to were included as part of a budget total already granted us by legislative sct, but held back by administrative refusals to release those funds to us for the intended purpose. Such arbitrary action and absolute disregard of our efforts did very little to build morale, and the retardation of both programs by such decisions cannot be figured in dollars

for comparison with the few dollars saved, so-called.

Two other problems arose during the year which may, in one way or another, affect future bureau procedures. First was the disparaging and well publicized complaint of an aerial spray program executed in an adjoining state, which culminated in a law-suit. While the proper use of DIT was upheld by the court further eerial array programs will be faced with certain antagonisms. The effects are already noticeable within our cun horders. Secondly, certain connercial concerns made known their resentment of our "conneting with private dusiness" through the use of the state-owned DM mixing plant. This plant was devised and constructed by the Bureau employees eight years ago when commercial capacities for DV were at a minimum. The Bureau originated the aerial apraying of DM in this state and its progress footered the growth of the market for finished IIII insecticides. And, while none of the bureau material is sold the connercial namifacturers feel that the present volume should be turned over to them gratis and the state-ouned plant be permanently dismantled. Although the plant has saved the Commonwealth thousands of dollars in the lower cost of some 3 million gallons of insecticide it may well be that technical points will require a legal decision to make further use of the plant possible.

Spring canker worm has required little attention on our part this season, it is too early to report on els leaf beetle or Japanese Beetle conditions and only two or three towns have continued a worthwhile attack on ticks, all of which are under bureau supervision. We continue to advocate public participation in the Japanese Beetle program but again we are faced with the ever-increasing attitude of "why doesn't the state take this over and do it?"

At the close of a most discoursging year bureou employees are ewalting the seasonal defoliation of the Gypsy Noth, the possible effects of

Beetle population. With proper weather conditions for the next 10 weeks we could anticipate tremendous expansion of at least two of these three pests. If such occurs the public clasor will again be directed against this department not against the agencies who prevented our efforts.

The bureau chief feels that some explanation is due him for the necessity of such confusion and continuous uncertainty that pertains to his budget. He has experienced the usual problems of securing budget approval, and operated for 3 years under a bond issue allied with legal restrictions which no state official understood or could explain. But for most of this past year he has had to battle to secure dribs and drabs of a fund supposedly alloted to him on July 1, 1957. Not one cent of his final allotment was released. Repairs to vehicles and parts for chain saws were delayed for months while the bureau chief pleaded with administration officials to release enounts as low as \$55.00. The facts are fully known to bis superiors so further details are unnecessery. But insamuch es it is now apparent that much the same procedure is extending into the new fiecal year he believes some official and reliable information should be given him if he is expected to operate in anything resembling a businesslike manner. This is no imaginary situation - for the past month we have had official comptroller advice that our 1957 balances would carry over and be available. On July 8, 1958 we vere informed from the same source that no funds were carried over and we had not one cent aside from salaries. On July 9, 1958 we were advised, again from the same source, that balances did carry over. No other department group is working under similar conditions, but certainly no signs of improvement are in evidence concerning this question in the Bureau of Insect Pest Control and the bureau chief personally feels that such day-by-day uncertainty deserves mention in an annual report, and some official action to correct it.

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STATETAL DATA: FIGURE 1840 1957

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No. of State agencies essisted on Dutch Elm Disease		
No. of Towns assisted, Dutch elm disease removels	55	
State payroll value of town assistance	\$28,891.73	
Value of insecticides furnished toms	\$ 6,191.00	
No. of condenued elms removed, state crevs		
Condemned elms still standing - April 1. 1958	18.254	

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