

CONNECTICUT  
**Agricultural Experiment Station**

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

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**BULLETIN OF IMMEDIATE INFORMATION**

**No. 5**

JUNE, 1907

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**THE GYPSY MOTH SITUATION AND THE NEW LAW**

BY

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NEW LEGISLATION.

The present legislature has just enacted a law providing for the suppression of the gypsy moth and including the brown-tail moth, though as yet the latter species has not been found in Connecticut. The law gives ample authority for carrying on the suppression work.

DANGER TO THE STATE.

So far the gypsy moth has not been found anywhere in the State except at Stonington, where less than one square mile of territory is infested. If this pest had not been discovered and suppressed at once, it would surely have spread to adjacent territory aided by passing vehicles, and when numerous would have devoured nearly all kinds of vegetation and ravaged hun-

dreds of acres of woodlands, as has been the case in Massachusetts. Thus, not only was the infested area threatened with destruction, but the whole state was endangered. The suppression work was prosecuted vigorously during 1906, and the pest held in subjection.

#### PRESENT AND FUTURE WORK AT STONINGTON.

There is a good chance of entirely eradicating this insect from Stonington, and this we shall strive to do. Until it is apparent that this has been accomplished, the work must be kept up. The pest is now in the caterpillar stage, and though we believe that only a few specimens are left, we shall try to capture every one of them. Burlap bands will be placed on all trees in the infested area, and visited each day for a time during June and July to gather the caterpillars. The bands will then be removed.

Many neglected trees have been pruned, cavities in them filled, and considerable brush has been cut and burned. More such work will be done wherever necessary for the extermination of the gypsy moth.

#### LOCAL COÖPERATION DESIRED.

Some property owners object to having bands put upon their trees or having the men on their premises to look at the bands. No doubt this is an inconvenience to many residents and property owners, but it is absolutely necessary for the prosecution of the work, and is a safeguard to the vegetation of not only this region but of the whole state. Men employed in this work are warned against any unnecessary destruction or injury of property, and are expected to be courteous to all. It is earnestly requested that residents and property owners coöperate with us by bearing these temporary inconveniences as patiently as possible, and that they allow nothing to hinder the suppression work. We are always ready to give information about the gypsy moth or other insects, and to give expert advice regarding the treatment of shade and orchard trees. Mr. George H. Hollister is at present the local superintendent, and on request will consult with anyone on these matters.

The full text of the law follows:—

#### *An Act Concerning Gypsy and Brown-Tail Moths.*

GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

JANUARY SESSION, A. D. 1907.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:*

SECTION 1. (**Public Nuisance.**) The insects commonly known as the gypsy moth and the brown-tail moth, being serious pests of vegetation, are, in all stages of their development, hereby declared to be a public nuisance.

SECTION 2. (**Authority.**) The state entomologist shall have authority to suppress and exterminate said gypsy and brown-tail moths, and may employ such assistants and laborers as he deems expedient; may cut and burn brush and worthless trees in fields, pastures, or woodlands, or along the roadsides on any public or private grounds; and may prune, spray, scrape, or fill cavities in any fruit, shade, or forest trees, or clean up any rubbish for the purpose of furthering said work. The said state entomologist, or any of his assistants, deputies, agents, or employes, shall have the right, at all times, to enter any public or private grounds in the performance of their duties.

SECTION 3. (**Living specimens must not be transported. Penalty.**) Any person transporting living eggs, larvae, pupae, or adults of the gypsy or brown-tail moths into the state, or from an infested region within the state to a region not hitherto infested, shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year.

SECTION 4. (**Wilful obstruction illegal. Penalty.**) Any person wilfully obstructing or hindering said state entomologist or his assistants or employes, in the work of suppressing said insects, shall be fined not less than twenty-five nor more than five hundred dollars.

SECTION 5. (**Appropriation.**) The sum of one thousand dollars is hereby appropriated to be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purposes of this act for the two fiscal years ending September 30, 1909; and the board of control is hereby authorized, if said board deem it advisable, to increase said appropriation to such amount not exceeding in the aggregate the sum of ten thousand dollars

as, in the opinion of said board of control and the state entomologist, is necessary, said sum to be in addition to the total amount to which said board of control is limited by law.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect from its passage, and the appropriation provided for in section five shall become immediately available for the purposes of this act.

Approved June 5, 1907.

#### PROVISIONS OF THE LAW.

An examination of the preceding measure will show that the State of Connecticut has by statute provided for the control of the gypsy and brown-tail moths. First it declares these insects to be a public nuisance. The state entomologist is thereby given authority to employ the necessary help; to enter any public or private grounds; to cut and burn brush and worthless trees; to prune, scrape, spray or fill cavities in trees, or clean up rubbish. Anyone wilfully hindering the suppression work is subject to prosecution and a heavy fine.

Anyone bringing these insects alive into the state, or from an infested region within the state to a locality not hitherto infested, is liable to be heavily fined and imprisoned, and it makes no difference whether the insects are in the egg, caterpillar, cocoon or adult stages.

This law further provides an appropriation for carrying on the work, and that the act take effect immediately upon its passage.

All suggestions, inquiries, or criticisms should be addressed in writing to

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