

# A NOTE ON SPRAYING AND DUSTING AGAINST BLISTER BLIGHT

C. A. Loos

In a recent article on "Dusting and Spraying against Blister Blight on Ury Group" (*Tea Quarterly*, Vol. XXIV, Part 3, September, 1953, pp. 70-75) the price quoted for "Cuprosana" 4 per cent copper fungicidal dust was the price in operation during the period under review. It has been recently brought to our notice that from 1st October, 1953, this formulation has been sold at 35.6 cts. per pound f.o.r. Colombo.

The representative in Ceylon of Messrs. Universal Crop Protection, Ltd., the manufacturers of "Cuprosana" dusts, states in a communication to this Institute that in 1952, under weather conditions prevailing during the period of our own spraying and dusting experiment on Ury Group, some estates in the Uva district obtained adequate protection against blister blight, on tea in plucking, from applications of 5-6 pounds of 4 per cent "Cuprosana" every 8-10 days. In such cases one application was required between pluckings.

We have also been informed by a few representatives of agencies distributing copper fungicidal sprays that under the same conditions 2-3 ounces (instead of the recommended 4 ounces) of wettable 50 per cent copper formulations in 10 gallons water gave adequate protection against blister blight.

In reviewing my recent publication I have to state that recent developments in spray applications have reduced spraying costs from between Rs. 2/75 and Rs. 3/- at the time of the Ury experiment, to approximately Rs. 1/70 per acre at the present time. The designer of the "Hobson" Boom is hopeful that with this apparatus the "running" cost of spraying, including fungicide, will be brought within the region of Rs. 1/25 per acre.

The amounts of wettable powders (sprays) and dusts we have recommended for the control of blister blight are maximum amounts for adequate protection under all possible weather conditions. The efficacy of amounts below our recommendations would depend on strictly local conditions and can best be judged by the man on the spot. Thus the decision to use, on any estate, lower concentrations than we have recommended must necessarily lie with the management concerned.