

## TEA TORTRIX.

As several people who are interested in tea are not acquainted with, or have no record of, the regulations which have been proclaimed against Tea Tortrix, they are reprinted here for reference.

The Plant Protection Ordinance requires that (1) the pest shall be proclaimed by His Excellency the Governor, (2) the measures which are to be adopted against it shall be published, and (3) the areas which are infested shall be declared.

As regards the measures to be adopted, it is to be noted that the Director of Agriculture may prescribe the manner in which plants attacked by a declared pest shall be treated, but any other regulations which are considered necessary must be made by His Excellency the Governor in Executive Council.

Tea Tortrix (*Homona coffearia* Niet.) was declared a pest by proclamation in Government Gazette of Nov. 11, 1927.

The regulations which have been published are—

(1) All egg masses, larvae, and pupae of Tea Tortrix on tea must be collected and destroyed within 24 hours of collection (Government Gazette, Nov. 18, 1927).

(2) Records of collections of Tea Tortrix egg masses, larvae, and pupae by weight or by number of leaves made on all estates over 10 acres in extent shall be sent to the Director of Agriculture at such intervals not exceeding three months as may be required by the Director of Agriculture (Government Gazette, Nov. 11, 1927).

A declaration of infested areas was published in Government Gazette, Nov. 18, 1927. The areas there enumerated are Chief Headmen's Divisions, but it may be taken that they cover all the tea area.

By the general provisions of the Ordinance, after a pest has been declared, it becomes the duty of the owner or occupier of an estate to report any occurrence of the pest on the estate to the Director of Agriculture. Failure to report is an offence, unless the owner or occupier had no reason to suspect the presence of the pest, in this case, Tea Tortrix. Presumably, if the appearances of the insect are discontinuous, each separate occurrence should be reported.

After an area has been declared infested, any plant pest inspector or sub-inspector may enter any estate in the area to determine whether the pest is present. It is to be noted that inspectors have had this power for many years, in the case of estates attacked by Shot-hole Borer.

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