Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is hard to comprehend the ease with which citrus canker may be carried. If some one had made the statement a year ago that as much care would be exercised in handling citrus trees as the surgeon exercises in performing a major surgical operation, he would have been smiled at, yet such is the case today with the groves in the canker-infected districts.

When the grower, upon waking in the morning, hears a mocking bird singing outside the window, he wonders if it has flown from the infected grove across the road. The grower, on going out to feed the mule before breakfast, finds that it has kicked the barn door down and wandered through his neighbor's infected grove, and then decided the grass at home is better. Has he brought some cankerous spores back with him? In the morning, when the grower goes out to work in his grove, he notices that the insects are flying with the wind from the nearest infected grove. How many spores of the disease do they carry on their feet and mouth parts? In the afternoon a friend visits the grower, and after he is shown over the grove with a nice crop of young fruit on it, the friend innocently remarks that he hopes there is no danger, as he has just been looking at canker in the grove of Mr. Jones, where the inspectors have just found it, and it looks as if it might be a bad thing to have in a grove. The friend manages to get away without serious damage, if he is lucky. After supper, when the grower sits down to enjoy a quiet smoke, he hears a yellow cur chasing a rabbit through the canker-infected grove across the road and then through his. He gets out his gun and takes a chance shot, hoping that the rabbit in his haste left all canker spores. Finally the grower lies down to sleep, but a cricket so persistently chirps outside of his window that he dreams canker has been carried into his grove by crickets, and twenty-seven trees burned. Woe is the grove owner in the canker-infected district.

As examples of the ways in which canker has been spread, the following are characteristic. From grove to grove: An ice wagon spreads canker to several groves along his delivery route from one infected tree that rubs the wagon. A flock of blackbirds are responsible for the scattering of canker to the yard trees in a small village. A wagon in which canker-infected nursery stock was hauled held spores for several days until some clean nursery stock was hauled in it, which later developed canker. A cow in the habit of following a path through two groves spread the canker along her trail from the infected grove to the clean grove. Important is man in the spread of canker by carrying it. "Typhoid Mary" has nothing on "Canker John," who while himself not affected by it, yet seems saturated with it. In actual life "Canker
John" is a budder who has strewn canker in his trail for the last six months, being employed in budding small nurseries for a number of persons. Every nursery he has budded, and every grove he has cut bud wood from has developed canker. In spreading canker from tree to tree in a grove the most important agents are insects and men, particularly by cultivation and fertilization. In this connection two groves are known in which chickens spread it broadcast. In spreading canker over a tree after one infection gets on it, insects, ants, and rain are the most important agents.

Unless you are acquainted with the conditions, the precautions taken by the inspectors will appear useless and amusing. As an example, let us take the inspection force of South Dade County, where 65 men are employed in the inspection work. The whole force is under a committee of three from the local growers' association. Directly in charge of the men is a foreman and squad leaders. The foreman has direct charge and general supervision of the inspection. The inspectors are divided into thirteen squads of five men each, of which one is a squad leader, who is responsible for the work of the squad, and has complete authority over it. Some of the general requirements of the inspectors are that they shall be residents of the district, members of the local association, either grove owners or the sons of grove owners, and shall be vouched for by two grove owners not related to them. The following are instances of some of the things an inspector has to do; wear a linen suit that completely covers his clothing, which has to be disinfected in mercury bichloride every time he comes out of an infected grove, and on quitting work in the afternoon, if he has not been in an infected grove, disinfecting shoes, leggings, hat, hands, etc., in addition. The following are some of the things that he must not do; touch any part of a citrus tree with his hands or clothing; when it is necessary to turn over a leaf or fruit of a tree use a stick, which must not be carried from that tree; not talk unnecessarily; not pass any suspicious spots without showing them to his squad leader; not carry any leaves or fruit, whether they have canker on them or not.

In this district there are about 900 groves in which no infections are found, and these are divided into five districts covered by five squads called advance inspection squads, who never go into an infected grove. There are 168 infected groves in this district, which are divided into two classes, those in which no infection has been found for three months, and those in which there has been. There are six squads assigned to the latter class that cover every grove in it once a week. The groves once infected, but clean for three months, of which there are 69, are divided between two squads that cover each grove twice a month.

In conclusion, the ease of spreading citrus canker causes workers with it to take as great precautions as physicians in an epidemic of bubonic plague.