brought out the second half of the story. So, of course, there was no use of our going down.

As a result, we have been forced to adopt a very unusual practice, one that just by luck we have carried out in all our work on the east coast, and that is: never burn a citrus tree that has citrus canker, without a witness. No matter if there isn’t a man within two miles, we hunt him up and show him the canker before we burn the tree.

WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE BEFORE WE ARE FINALLY RID OF CITRUS CANKER

Wm. J. Krome, Homestead, Fla.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have not prepared any paper on the subject which has been assigned to me, knowing that the gentlemen who have preceded me with addresses on the history of citrus canker and the work that has been done towards its eradication would tell you practically all the facts that have been ascertained in regard to the disease up to this time. It has been left to me to present to you some ideas as to what is going to happen in connection with the disease hereafter, and I have felt that a paper prepared along these lines would be very liable to be discounted by the facts presented beforehand. As my colleague in the Dade County work has just said at the end of his paper, “It would be idle for any one to attempt to prophesy what might come to pass.” That, as you know, would have taken the wind out of anything which I might have prepared. (Laughter.)

There are a few facts, however, which bear particularly on the work ahead. From the various papers which have been presented this afternoon, you must have read between the lines and gathered the correct inference that the law of the State of Florida, or rather the lack of a proper law, permitted canker to enter the State. Then it was lack of a proper law that was responsible for the lapse of so great a length of time before we became aware of the existence of the disease. And again it was through lack of a proper law, after the disease was found, that we had not the proper means with which to combat it. We had not a dollar, you might say, with which to fight it. This is a cardinal point which must receive attention; before we can make an accurate guess as to what is going to happen to the citrus industry, we must know positively what is going to happen in the way of a law. There has been a law prepared and we believe it is such a law that it will take care of this case and all future cases of a similar nature which may come up from time to time. That law is now before the legislature and you have been asked at a previous session to lend your aid in the form of telegrams to your representatives urging the passage of the bill.
It has been a number of years since a warning was first sounded to the Florida State Horticultural Society in regard to the menace which was hanging over us from the Mediterranean fruit fly and the Mexican orange maggot. A great many of us were worried about those things years ago, but our worry was not sufficient to goad us into seeing that we secured a proper law to keep them out. We have not those pests as yet, but while we were worrying over the Mediterranean fruit fly and the Mexican orange maggot we got citrus canker and it is yet too early to tell whether or not we have something worse than the things we were worrying about.

However, unless we get rid of canker, the fruit fly and the maggot need worry us no more, as far as our citrus industry is concerned. Those of us who have lived with the canker for the past year have not the slightest doubt that until the last leaf of the last infected tree is destroyed—absolutely eradicated—the man who plants an orange tree or a grapefruit tree in Florida is simply throwing money away. There is no doubt of it. And it is not what General Hancock called the tariff, "a local issue."

We have been unfortunate enough in Dade County to draw the big end of the fight, at least we hope no country will have anything to contend with such as we have had. But let me tell you, there is not one citrus producer in this State but should feel that this is an issue that affects him directly and personally.

In presenting the case before the Seminar at Gainesville last September, I stated that Dade County was going to get rid of the disease, but what we most feared was that it would break out in some other part of the State and come back to us. I was young and inexperienced and had known citrus canker only three or four months. There has hardly been a week since that time but I have felt quite sure that I had made a mistake and that Dade County was not going to get rid of the disease. But as the case stands now, I believe, personally, though I might have a hard time proving it, that Dade County is going to get rid of the disease, providing we get the law, providing we get the funds that must go with that law, providing, further, that we get from one source or another the right man to go with the law and the funds, and providing, still further, that behind that law and those funds and the man who administers them, we have the united backing of the citrus industry over the State. Without all these provisions I would hate to venture a guess. It has been an uphill fight so far.

When I reported to the Seminar I stated that we had something like seventy-five or eighty active infections. We worked steadily all fall and about the first of the year we took an inventory. We had spent something like $12,000 in South Dade County and we had started four or five months previously with seventy-five known infections. After working all those months and spending all that money, we had one hundred and twenty-five active infections!

Our trouble was that we had not sufficient men in the fall to hunt for the new infections. Where we had known infections and funds to properly handle them we had succeeded in eradicating the dis-
ease, but the situation was staring us in
the face that soon we would not be able
to look after even the known infections.

We decided that we were wasting our
money like pouring water into a rat hole
and that to make the work effective we
must double or treble our force. We gave
the people of our district in South Dade
one week to decide. We had to have real
money—we had any amount of subscrip-
tions on paper but we didn't have the cash.
During that week the National Govern-
ment gave Florida an appropriation of
about one-half of the funds necessary,
hardly that. But with that incentive, our
people in South Dade raised sufficient
funds to carry the rest of the work
through until the first of July, not in pa-
per or in promises but in actual cash. So
in South Dade our campaign is financed
for the immediate future. If by July first
the State has not made provision for car-
ying it on further the work will stop,
there is no other way out of it.

Our community is a country of small
groves and the majority of the groves are
not producing. A census taken about a
year ago in the Redland district showed
that only about nine per cent. of the citrus
properties were bearing. In a new coun-
try where we have no wealthy populace,
the financing of this campaign has come
as a very heavy burden, and though at
times on the actual scene of trouble it
has been unpleasant, on the whole I feel
proud of the people of Dade county for
the way they have supported this fight.
They have responded time and time again
and those who could not give actual cash
have given labor. Of course there have
been some instances of men who were
able who have not done their part but
these have not been frequent. There
has been some feeling through our part
of the country that the growers over the
state were not doing their share. Our
people felt that we were having to carry
nearly the whole burden of financing the
fight and it didn't look fair. But we ap-
preciate the fact that the growers of the
state at large have not been fully informed
of the danger that confronts them. It
has not been brought to them as a perso-
nal issue. The growers over the state
have felt sympathetic toward those of
Dade county but heretofore they have not
realized they were in the same boat and
threatened with the same disaster that
has overtaken us; that if the end of the
boat extending into the Redland district
sunk, the bow of the boat in which they
were riding would not be comfortable.

We think that through various means
such as Mr. Tenny has mentioned, of a
moving picture film and other publicity
work, it has now been brought home to
our sister counties that this is a state-wide
fight, and if they had realized it sooner,
we think we would have obtained what
we needed and the burden upon us would
not have been so heavy.

There are some lines along which we
must have help from the growers over
the state at large, if we are to finally suc-
cceed. There are about eight counties be-
sides Dade, maybe nine, where infections
are known to have occurred. How many
others there are and at how many other
points, in those counties there are active
infections right now, is simply guess
work. When we know that every flying,
walking, creeping animal can carry canker
as far as it goes it is mere idle talk to say that citrus canker is confined to any one known spot. With over two hundred infections in Dade county, with probably one hundred and fifty of these active infections, with the migratory birds flying to and from these groves to other parts of the state, traveling workmen going from one part of the state to another, families moving from one place to another, it would be remarkable indeed if the disease can be confined to a few localities. I would not be at all surprised sometime during the next month or so, during the time the trees are putting on their spring growth, if in other parts of the state there will be reports of the disease breaking out.

I said at the Gainesville meeting that the growers there were not representative growers and one might say that the growers in this Society are not representative growers. Perhaps you are in a way, but you are representative of the intelligent, up-to-date and active class of growers. If all the growers were in your class, the fight over the state as a whole would be much more easily won. It can be taken for granted that property owners who are members of this Society, who attend these meetings and attend the Seminar meetings will be well enough informed to know when the canker breaks out in their groves and will realize the dangers which will come if the disease is permitted to develop unmolested. But there is an element that does not belong to the Horticultural Society, that does not attend meetings or read bulletins, who are just as liable, and perhaps more liable to get citrus canker than you are. If canker breaks out in some of your localities with this element to deal with, it is to the members of this Society we will have to look for leadership in the fight against it. You must take the lead and see that there is no trifling, for you have been warned, and forewarned is forearmed.

A year ago, possibly half a year ago, one might have been justified in experimenting with different methods or attempted cure; there is absolutely no justification of that now. The only course to take now is absolute destruction of infected trees. The only excuse for hesitating to apply this Spartan remedy is ignorance and we trust the presentation of the case of citrus canker which has been made this afternoon will go a long way to remove any ignorance on the subject.

In Dade county we have had considerable experience in combating this disease and we consider that we are fairly well educated in that line now, but it has been an expensive education and if that education had to be repeated all over the state in each citrus district there would not be much hope. The virulence of the disease has been brought out by every speaker this afternoon.

The fact that where canker is known it can be eradicated is our only encouragement. Six months ago we could not say that. Mr. Burbank has stated in his paper that we have no ground for stating absolutely that a large bearing grove, once infected with canker, could be cleaned up. I believe he is correct. I do not remember of a single instance where the disease has infected a large bearing grove that it has been completely eradicated as yet, but in smaller groves we have demonstrated that
even in the worst cases we can eradicate it.

One grove I recall had as bad an infection as we have known, a forty-acre grove of young trees. At the end of the first week's inspection we burned two hundred and eighty trees. For weeks we burned upwards of one hundred trees a week. We finally burned one-third of it, possibly a little more, but for several weeks now we have found no canker there and we believe we have won the fight in that grove. We believe we can win in other similar cases but if there is anything that interferes, anything that causes delay in burning the trees, even for a short time, our chances are greatly lessened.

For that reason we must have a law. We will get nowhere without it, and the law without the money and power to operate it will be almost useless. With the law and with the money six or eight months ago we might now be able to make a very much better report.

We know what the law is that has been offered; it has been thrashed out by a number of our growers who know our needs in that line. We know what the appropriation is that we have asked for, and we know we are going to need within the next two years every cent of it. We have not asked for anything more than we actually require. We have asked for an appropriation of $125,000 and we have not expected that it is going to be cut down to $50,000 or $60,000.

One of the other provisos that I mentioned in stating that I believe we are going to get rid of canker, was the man who will administer the law throughout the state. On the selection of the right man for that work a great deal of the efficiency of the law is going to depend. It will be an extremely disagreeable position to hold. We must have a man who, in the first place is remarkably intelligent. He must have a broad training and then if we can perform some surgical operation on him and doubly reinforce his backbone it will be a very good thing. Then we should perform another operation and remove his heart. When we have a man with a reinforced backbone and with no heart at all, we will have found the right man for the place. (Laughter.)

To keep from entering into a dispute with the gentleman who said it was idle to prophesy, I will have to confine myself to personal ideas and state that it is in my opinion possible to get rid of citrus canker. Now whether it is probable that we will do so depends upon the provisos I have mentioned.