

Seattle City Clerk's Office

Comptroller File

84184

NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE
IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.

81184

FILE NO.

Communication
OF

Acting Mayor

Transmitting letter from State
Department of Agriculture re
Services

FILED MAR 1 1922

BY

ADDRESS

H. W. CARROLL

CITY COMPTROLLER AND EX-OFFICIO CITY CLERK

BY *C. W. Scott* DEPUTY

ACTION OF THE COUNCIL

REFERRED

MAR 1 1922

REFERRED

REPORTED

REPORTED

REF. FOR ORD.

MAR 6 - 1922

TO FINANCE
PUBLIC SAFETY

TO

REPORT ADOPTED

REPORT ADOPTED

C. B.

ORD.

DISPOSITION

ON FILE

Scott

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Mr. President:

Your *Finance and Public Safety* Committee

Committee

to which was referred the within *Communication*

would respectfully report that we have considered the same and respectfully recommend that *It should be*

placed on file.

T. W. ...
CHAIRMAN
Oliver J. Erickson

H. Fitzgerald
CHAIRMAN
W. ...

NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.

THE EARWIG

A Menace to Health

"These pests have increased to such an extent that they are now ravaging nearly every portion of the City. It is not so much the damage they do to foliage and plant life, which in itself is serious, as their presence in and about houses and their contamination of clothing and without doubt food. These pests live in all kinds of filthy places, in drains and down spouts, in various wet and dirty areas in and about buildings—especially houses. From these places they migrate to all portions of buildings and carry upon their bodies and feet the filth in which they exist."

Dr. H. M. Read—Commissioner of Health—City of Seattle.



I Contaminate Food and Clothing



I Depreciate Property

Life History

"In the fall the female lays from 50 to 90 white eggs in the soil. Early in spring the young hatch and come to the surface. At first they are white and the same shape as the adult only smaller. Later they change to a lively green and finally to a reddish brown color. The adult is three-quarters of an inch long. It has a pair of small forceps on its tail end. Earwigs work at night and hide in dark places during the day.

Method of Combating

A poison bait is applied over the entire surface of the ground when the young earwigs are first hatched. A second application should follow in 4 or 5 days and then a third 4 or 5 days afterwards. Use about 5 pounds at each application for an ordinary lot.

U. S. Government, Dept. of Agriculture. Formula for Poison Bait. Bulletin No. 566.

Stale Bread (finely ground) or bran 15 lbs.

Paris Green..... 1 lb.

If stale bread is used instead of bran it should be ground fine in a meat-chopping machine and mixed with the Paris Green while dry. Stir the mixture thoroughly, slowly adding water that has been sweetened by the addition of sugar, molasses or syrup. Sufficient sweetened water should be used so the mixture will run thru the fingers and when thrown broadcast with some force will break up in small particles.

When the bait is finely ground up and properly scattered birds or domestic animals will not bother it.

J. C. EAKLE, Dist. Hort. Inspector,
State Dept. of Agriculture.

Poison Bait as recommended in Bulletin 566, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, was used in combating earwigs in Newport, R. I., in 1917 and proved to be over 90% effective.

F. S. COYNE, Consulting Entomologist,
560 Empire Bldg., Seattle.

"There are approximately twenty thousand City lots now infested with the earwig and unless combated these insects may spread over the entire City. At present Queen Anne Hill is the worst affected although the insects have already appeared in sections of Capitol Hill, Interlaken, University Heights, Green Lake, West Seattle, Madrona, Mt. Baker Park and elsewhere.

"It happens that these infested areas have sewers. When these pests spread to localities where sewers are not in, the danger to health will be much greater as the earwig thrives in places where there are overflowing cesspools and contaminated streams.

"This Department will cooperate in every way possible to assist in an advisory capacity in the control of these insects, however the actual activities of the Department are limited to the areas set aside for Street purposes."

O. A. PIPER, Supt. Streets & Sewers.



I Destroy Flowers, Fruits and Vegetables



I Am a Public Nuisance

Poison Bait may be purchased from the local seedsmen ready for use at a nominal cost. To be effective it must be applied in April, preferably from April 1st to 15th.

For further information call Main 5900 Local 62. 417 County-City Bldg.

NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.

MAYOR'S OFFICE
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

HUGH M. CALDWELL
MAYOR
H.A. OWEN, JR.
SECRETARY

March
1st,
1922.

Public Safety Committee
City Council.

Gentlemen:-

Attached hereto is communication from State Department of Agriculture, for your information, previous to filing same with City Council.

Undoubtedly the earwig is a pest and a menace, and I shall be glad to work in cooperation with my colleagues on Public Safety Committee and City Council to aid in every manner in ridding the City of the aforementioned nuisance, which I'm sure will be very much appreciated by all concerned.

Yours most respectfully,

Robt. B. Hesketh

ACTING MAYOR.

enc

Paul P. [unclear]

NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE
IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OLYMPIA

DIVISIONS
AGRICULTURE
HORTICULTURE
DAIRY AND LIVE STOCK
FOODS, FEEDS, DRUGS, OILS
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

FEBRUARY
27
1922.

Honorable Mayor and City Council of Seattle,
Seattle, Washington.

Gentlemen:

Due to the insistant demands from your city this department has undertaken a campaign to clean up and control the earwig and tent caterpillar pests of Seattle. Of course, in order to make such a campaign successful it is necessary to have the help and cooperation of the city administration and all civic bodies. We have a good law to operate under but are dependent on local appropriation for money to carry on the work and to enforce the law.

You are no doubt quite familiar with the great amount damage that these pests do as well as that the earwig a serious household nuisance. However, few people realize the importance of attacking these pests at just the right time. This is especially true of the earwig which is much more susceptible to control measures very early in the spring before it is apt to be noticed at all. Of necessity if any campaign is to be successful it must be largely educational and very thorough. We have already had a conference with the Chamber of Commerce officials and those from the Street and Sewer Department. As you know through the help of the Street and Sewer Department last year two men carried on the tent caterpillar work and under our present plan we hope to put more men on earlier in the season to get the earwig and to follow up through the tent caterpillar season.

It is essential that these men be qualified for the work and our estimate of the funds necessary is \$ 4000.00.

Yours very truly,

C. L. French
DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE.

by;

A. H. Lloyd
CHIEF ASS'T DIRECTOR.

CLR/BH

NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.

Castle Apts., #2132-Second Ave.,
Seattle, Washington,
February 26th, 1922.

L. Robert B. Hesketh,
(Acting Mayor)
Seattle, Washington.

Dear Sir:

It pleases me to note in the Sunday Times that you are going after the earwig. I am writing to tell a few things I know about the pest from personal observation on Queen Anne Hill.

I lived for six years facing the Queen Anne Playfield. I never even saw an earwig, until three years ago. Then a few invaded my property. I would find them in my flowers. The next year they were so numerous as to become a pest; and I began to fight them. I used paris-green mixed up with damp crumbs and scattered for the young ones to feed on, but got it too strong, and hurt the grass with it. I went after them, too, with kerosine in a sprayer, using it on the telephone poles, in the cracks in which the earwigs congregate to spend the daytime.

Last year, in spite of my constant warfare on them of the year before, my property was simply over-run with them, -- and so were neighboring properties, as I know from personal inspection. I kept them out of my house; but only by the most persistent fighting. I found them by hundreds in the edge of the sod, where it ran along concrete or stone-work. I opened the ashes clean-out in the base of my fire-place chimney out-doors; and there were thousands in there! I closed the iron door quickly, and filled a nasal atomizer with gasoline out of the tank of my auto, and sprayed them in their hiding-places with that. It kills them quick, and it soon evaporates away, and then more will hide in the same place next night, and can be killed the same way.

I went around the block with the nasal atomizer and a bottle of gasoline, and squirted the gasoline vapor into the cracks in the telephone-poles --- and I killed thousands of earwigs in this way! Every few days I would make the rounds of the telephone-poles again; and every time I would kill new multitudes. I would really kill them, too; for the dead ones could be seen, lying where they had fallen, for days after a slaughter.

But the big draw-back to any real success in such warfare was the entire apathy of the majority of the residents in the neighborhood. There can be no such thing as eradicating this pest, unless everybody in the entire neighborhood infested gets busy and wipes them out on the premises under his charge. Otherwise they will breed there, and over-run from there the adjoining prop-

NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE
IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.

erties; for they travel,-- and travel fast.

One of the worst infested places I found was the Queen Anne Play-field! There were thousands and thousands of them there! I sprayed gasoline with my atomizer into the cracks of telephone poles around the Play-field; and into crevices around the tennis-court back-stops; and I killed hat-fulls of earwigs! The Care-taker of the Play-field saw me at work, and can tell you of results. I asked him why the City didn't fight them there and elsewhere on properties under its charge. He said no provision had been made for it.

I found the saw-dust in the crib, filled with it for the children to play in, full of -- simply alive with -- earwigs, old and young! They evidently breed in the saw-dust.

Now I submit that the City cannot begin too soon to fight this pest to a finish. It is the biggest nuisance of any I ever came into contact with; and it will over-run the entire region, if not curbed, and curbed quick.

I even found where it had been eating cherries on the trees!

One night I went out with an electric torch, and saw hundreds of earwigs on the sides of my house. I took an old case-knife, turned its edge at an angle, and smashed them, one at a time. I killed, on that first foray, more than six-hundred of them, by actual count! The next night I killed, by actual count, over the very same ground, more than five-hundred! I kept up the fight, every night, until, after some weeks, I would get less than a hundred per night. But I always got more than enough!

If you yourself have not had experience with them, thank your lucky stars, and hope that organized warfare on them will wipe them out before they invade your district as they did mine, -- and as they surely will, unless strenuous methods are adopted against them at once.

Another thing: Let the public be warned not to transport flowers, of any sort, without first examining the inside of them, petal by petal; for otherwise earwigs are sure to be carried into districts at present free from them.

For example, -- Two fresh roses were cut from the bush and pinned on the lapel of my coat one day last summer at the home of a friend north of the University. I got right into my car, and drove straight downtown, and went up into one of the big office-buildings. My wife was there, and she said, "What beautiful roses!" and looked closely at them -- and in the heart of each were two earwigs!

Hoping I have not taken too much of your valuable time, and that what I have taken will turn out to have been used to advantage, I am

Very respectfully yours,

Geo. G. Cowell

Please call this letter to attention of the City Council.

NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.