12-5

e 10186/38

FORESTS DEPARTMENT.

7/8

FILE NO.

~~9/33~~

9/39

7/8

"R"

Subject: Stem Canker Disease of Red Flowering Gums

THIS SHEET NOT TO BE WRITTEN ON.

showed that 19 officers were ... accept the reduced gratuities ... being £4,465. That left a lia... £82,000. There was thus £27,000 av... for immediate transfer to the su... annuation fund. It was proposed ... liquidate the remaining liability over a number of years.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Latham) secured the adjournment of the debate.

RED-FLOWERING GUMS.

Fighting Disease in King's Park.

The canker disease which has taken severe toll of the red-flowering gums in the metropolitan area has been the subject of continuous research in a co-operative effort on the part of the Agricultural Department and the King's Park Board. A series of experiments was started in an effort to find a variety of red-flowering gum that was immune or highly resistant to the disease and to propagate from it. A report on the experiments was received by the King's Park Board last week.

The experiments were entrusted to the Government Plant Pathologist (Mr. W. P. C. Smith) and the superintendent of King's Park (Mr. J. E. Watson), and most of them were carried out in King's Park. At the outset, it was found that so many trees were diseased that their removal was necessary. Owing to the prevalence of disease, and the bad habit of growth and almost white flowers of some trees, only 24 out of a total of 180 examined were deemed suitable for the experiments.

In his report, Mr. Smith stated that most of the trees had proved susceptible, some had shown considerable resistance to infection, and a very few appeared immune. The board had permitted artificial inoculation experiments on some healthy red-flowering gum trees in the park with desirable colour and habit of growth, to discover without delay immune or resistant trees which would then serve for the propagation of the species by buds, grafts or cuttings. On March 15 and 16 last he had artificially inoculated the 24 healthty trees selected in three areas by Mr. Watson. Eight separate inoculations were made, the fungus being applied through slight wounds, and 24 control inoculations also were applied. In addition, to check the pathogenicity of the fungal cultures used, inoculations of known susceptible trees also were done.

Examinations on October 31 and November 15, continued the report, revealed that six trees (whose colours were very dark red, red, and pink) were, to say the least, very highly resistant compared with the remainder, and that they should be carefully reserved for propagation purposes. It had been found that propagation of resistant varieties by budding on red-flowering gum stocks could be done, and more recent experiments indicated that grafting the red-flowering gum on red gum (marri) stocks might be possible, while further work on the question of propagation by cuttings was proceeding. The board was asked to permit the use of its glasshouse to assist the propagation studies, and to arrange for the planting in large receptacles at the nursery of a number of seedling red-flowering gums and red gums.

BITTEN BY A SNAKE.

When working in the Karrakatta Cemetery on Wednesday, Jack Brigatti (19), of Forrest-street, North Perth, an employee of the Cemetery Board, was bitten on the calf of his left leg by a snake, believed to have been a tiger snake.

He was taken in a private motor car to the Perth Hospital and treated for the bite and a careful watch was kept on him in the observation ward until yesterday morning, when a St. John Ambulance took him to a private hospital for further treatment. His condition last night was reported to be satisfactory.

West Australian
28th or 29th /11/34.

Mr J.H. Day

1 Date of original planting of Avenue – 1920

2 Shew canker decease noticed about 1925 when all affected trees were replaced. Subsequently all trees were replaced as they became deceased.

3 No failures noticed ~~for~~ among the replants of several years.

3/6/40 Posted to J Watson Kings Park a few A.E. seed collected from R.F. Gum Reserve between Bow & Kent Rivers & about 6 miles north of Denbarker Rd

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

6

Correspondents will greatly facilitate the transaction of their business by:
Confining each letter to one subject.
Writing on one side only of the paper.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

PERTH 26th April, 1940.

In replying please quote .....

Forester J.A. Thomson,
Forest Department,
DENMARK.

Re. Canker Disease of Red Flowering Gums.

With reference to the above disease, I have to advise that I shall be visiting the Nornalup Area in company with Mr. J. Watson, Secretary of the King's Park Board on Thursday, the 9th of May. I have approached Mr. Kessell concerning this matter and he has been good enough to advise me that he will make your services available in order to help with this inspection.

I should deem it a favour, therefore, if you would meet us in Denmark on the 9th of May, so that we can once again inspect the Nornalup trees.

With kind regards,

W. Mass Smith

PLANT PATHOLOGIST.

J.M.S. 1/5/40

Denmark
1st May 60

Plant Pathologist
Dept of Agriculture Perth

Re Canker Disease of Red Flowering Gums

Dear Sir

Replying to your letter of 26th ult. I wish to advise that I will expect you & Mr Watson to be in Denmark on Thursday 4th May so that we can proceed to the Red Flowering Gum Reserves.

J. M. Thomson

R. F Gams Middleton Rd Albany

29/3/40 Mr Glazebrook, nurseryman of Middleton Rd Albany stated to me that

1/ R.F. Gams started to die soon after planting
2/ " " replantings owing to deaths were 30-40 per year
3/ Some plants were obtained from him & some from Perth nurseries
Mr Glazebrook's seed was obtained from various sources, as follows:- from Bow River Middleton Rd avenue, & Perth.
4/ No attempt has ever been made to eradicate the disease & new trees were replanted as others died.

JAH.

Head Office Reference Local Office Reference
SUBJECT:
To Western Australia.
Office.
FORESTS DEPARTMENT.

Mermark
1st April 06

Mr. J.H. Clay
Middleton Rd. Albany

Dear Sir

The Red Flowering Gum trees planted along Middleton Road are as you know suffering from a disease identical with the Stem Canker disease found in the R.T. Gum avenues planted in Kings Park.

Research work is being carried out with the object of erradicating the disease about which very little is known.

I understand that you were instrumental in having the Middleton Road trees ~~planted~~ planted & have taken an active interest in their growth.

Could you therefore let me know the following particulars

1/ State that original avenue was planted
2/ How soon after planting was disease first noticed
3/ How soon after planting were fresh trees replanted to replace deaths.
4/ About what were average yearly number of trees re-planted owing to deaths
5/ Do you know of any individual trees which were planted in the original lot.

Any information you can give would be much appreciated. Yours faithfully
J.H. Thomson

Klemach
20th April 10

Mr J. H. Kay
"Mount" Middleton Rd
Albany.

Dear Mr Kay

Thank you for your letter of 16th inst & the helpful information you have given.

When I am next in Albany I will call on you & would be very pleased to inspect some of the trees with you in person.

Yours faithfully
J. R. Thomson

Inspect.

1 Any original (1920) trees.

2 Last trees replanted.

"MEERUT,"
Middleton Road,
ALBANY, W.A.

J. A. Thomas Esq
Denmark

April 16 1910

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 1st inst came duly to hand, but as I have been laid up for a fortnight could not reply sooner. Re Red Flowering Gums. The Avenue was planted in 1920 about 5 years later. I noticed the canker referred to, so had the trees removed and replaced, but as this was happening rather often I called a meeting of the Progress of the Town to discuss the Matter After careful deliberation we decided to replace all, and every subsequent tree as it showed signs of decease. With Pluyes trees. The gums seem to be doing fairly well, but I have not noticed any more failures among the gums for several years now. The old Eucal trees are well advanced now and look quite good. Of course I have nothing to do with the Avenue now as it was taken over by the Council about 3 years ago, so cannot speak too definitely on the Matter tho I worry about now as the painting of the name plates etc. The gums that were planted to replace the one that died, seem to have done all right

Yours Sincerely
H. J. Day

A Stamp of 1½ would make the Postman Happy

PAS
20-4-10

The Kings Park Board.

TELEPHONE B 1065

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY

Kings Park,

Perth, 16th February 1940

Forester J. Thompson,
Forests Dept.,
DENMARK

Dear Sir,

I have heard from a person who recently visited Albany that the disease that has taken such a severe toll of the red flowering gums in the Metropolitan area is now evident in this tree in your town.

As experiments are being carried out in Kings Park in an effort to combat the disease I should be pleased if you could inform me if you are aware of any disease in your trees, as the spread of the disease to places outside the Metropolitan area would have a bearing on the experiments that are being conducted.

Yours faithfully,

J. H. Watson
Secretary

Dear Jack

I have sent you this copy of a letter to the Town Clerk Albany, could you follow it up if you are in Albany?

Have you seen any trace of the disease in the Denmark area I gave Cass Smith some cankers to send to you for identification purposes. Regard

J. Watson.

J.H.W.
21-2-40

Klemark
21st Feb 90

The Secretary
Knights Park Board
Re Elm Canker disease - R.T. Grass

Dear Sir

I have your letter of 14th inst to hand & in reply have to advise that the Red Flowering Gums planted in Albany along Middleton Road are in a pretty bad way due to the above disease.

I have not observed any signs of this disease in the natural habitat of the R.T. Grass.

Please advise me upon what lines I could best assist you in this matter.

When I am next in Albany I will obtain some specimens from the disease affected trees & forward for your examination. This will not be for several weeks however.

Yours faithfully
J.M. Thomson

Dear Jack

The blue waters of the Swan must seem very restful from the shaded lawns of Knights Park. I understand however that the habit of draping mantles is prevalent even in those well ordered parts. So you can raise a theatre now & again. Hope to see you in Sunbury in May

Cheerio + Best wishes
Yours

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

6

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

PERTH, 14th March, 1939.

In replying please quote .....

FORESTER J.A. THOMSON,

DENMARK.

Re. Canker Disease on Red Flowering Gums.

I have to acknowledge your letter of the 10th instant and note, with pleasure, that the type specimens of the red flowering gum canker disease arrived safely, and that you have been able to hand a portion of these specimens to Mr. Saw of Bowbridge.

I appreciate your offer of assistance very greatly and hope that as a result of this co-operation we shall be able to come to some conclusion concerning the origin of this trouble.

W Glass Smith

PLANT PATHOLOGIST.

Klemmark
10th March 9

Mr H.P. Cary Smith
Plant Pathologist

Dear Sir

I was pleased to receive from you specimens of Rhus canker disease & Red flowering Gums - & your covering letter of 28th ult.

I will be glad to give you any assistance I can in this matter & am keeping the local R.F. Gum under observation.

Several of the specimens have been sent on to - Mr. Law of Bow Bridge.

Yours sincerely
J.H. Thomson
Jones Co.

Kleinmark
10th March 9

Mr Bert Law
Bow Bridge
Re Stem Canker Disease of Red
Flowering Gums

Dear Mr Law

I am forwarding to you per Charlie Offer a parcel containing several specimens of above sent me by Mr Cass Smith with a request to hand you some specimens

These specimens are sterilised. Mr Smith states that during autoclaving the typical white spore stage on the surface of the cankers was largely destroyed but the general shape should serve as a reliable guide to enable the disease to be identified should any suspicious looking specimens be observed in this locality.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

J K Thomson

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

PERTH,....28th February, 1939.

In replying please quote .....

.....Forester Thomson,.....
.....DENMARK.....

Dear Sir,

re Stem Canker Disease of Red Flowering Gums

As promised during my recent visit to Denmark, I am enclosing under separate cover sterilised type specimens of the Red Flowering Gum Canker disease, obtained from King's Park. I am afraid that during autoclaving the typical white spore stage, on the surface of the Cankers, was largely destroyed, but the general shape should serve as a reliable guide to enable you to identify the disease should any suspicious looking symptoms be observed in the Denmark area.

With many thanks for the courtesy extended to me on my recent visit, and for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

W Glass Smith

PLANT PATHOLOGIST

P.S. Mr_ Bert Saw of Bow Bridge would also be interested in the specimens.

JAG 6-3-39.

e 14606/38 **FORESTS DEPARTMENT, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.** Form F.D.79.

TO THE OFFICER IN CHARGE,

DENMARK ~~Divisional~~ District } Office.

FORESTER THOMSON For attention.

District.

SUBJECT: Red Flowering Gums.

Head Office Reference..... Local Office Reference.....

Mr. Cass Smith, Acting Government Plant Pathologist, and Mr. Sharp, Tobacco Adviser, will be visiting Denmark next week. They will stay at the Denmark Hotel on Wednesday night and hope to inspect the areas where red flowering gums (Eucalyptus ficifolia) can be found in ~~their~~ natural habitat.

Unless other engagements prevent you, will you please call at the Hotel on Wednesday evening and give what information you can to the officers referred to, that will assist them in their investigation, accompanying them to the areas if possible on Thursday. If you are unable to see them at the Hotel on Wednesday evening, will you please leave a note there for them with the best information you can, directing them to the areas where Red flowering gums may be now found.

They will be leaving Perth first thing on Monday morning.

S. H. Kessell

CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS.

PERTH.
5.1.39.
CH/BP.

7/1/38