

rapid that national calamities have often resulted from a visitation of the more destructive species. History records many such calamities; some caused by locusts, others by the various pests which attack the cereals—some on the old continent, others on the new.

The annual loss to agriculturists and fruit-growers by the ravages of insects is simply enormous. It has been stated on excellent authority that the damage done by insects in France amounts to \$50,000,000 annually, and that the quantity of human food consumed by them each year is equal to the entire consumption of the nation for a period of five weeks.¹ The loss by the wheat-midge in 1854 in the United States exceeded \$16,000,000. Riley estimates the loss of corn and small grains caused by the chinch-bug in the North-Western States, in 1874, at \$60,000,000. In 1870, the white butterfly destroyed \$500,000 worth of cabbages in the vicinity of New York alone. The losses by this insect in Canada, and the more important damage done by the Hessian fly, wheat-midge, &c., in past years, are but too well known. Nor are the special enemies of the fruit crop less destructive. The grapevine phylloxera threatens to destroy the vineyards of France, and has already gained a footing in the United States; while the curculio, the canker-worm and the tent caterpillar devastate our orchards, and other insects attack the smaller fruits.

Happily our Province is free from some of the injurious insects which harass the fruit-growers of the West. Those, however, which we do possess are sometimes sufficiently numerous to give great annoyance, as parties engaged in the business know from their own experience.

The cold climate of our Province places an obstacle in the way of fruit-growers which is difficult to overcome, and this, in addition to the insect pests, has discouraged many from attempting to follow the pursuit. The disadvantage of climate, however, will in time be surmounted by the introduction of varieties capable of surviving the cold of winter, and the other

NOTE.—¹Hind.