

LOSSES CAUSED BY DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS.

In the May number of *The Century*, Vol. L., No. 1, p. 89, 1895, there is recorded an item of interest to economic entomologists that is liable to be overlooked and lost, although it deserves a better fate. In an article by Mr. William E. Smythe, on "The Conquest of Arid America," there is given a carefully-compiled table of all of the expenditures of "the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints," in Utah, the figures being furnished, at the author's request, by Mr. A. Milton Musser, Church historian, and by him submitted to the inspection of the Presidents and Bishops of the Church, prior to publication. The figures cover a period of forty years, and the estimates are stated to be "as fair as they can be given." The one to which the attention of entomologists is here directed reads as follows:—

"Loss sustained by crickets, locusts and grasshoppers, \$2,500,000."

It is interesting to compare this amount with other items. For instance, the loss by fire during the same period was but \$800,000; building of churches and schools, \$4,000,000, or less than double the loss by insect depredations; the cost of local telegraph and railroad lines, \$3,000,000; cost of immigration and sustaining the poor, \$8,000,000; taxes, \$8,000,000.

As the estimates cover the first 40 years of the existence of the settlement, the figures are of especial value to us, as this is the period during which it is always the most difficult to obtain information.

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NOTE AS TO CRITICISMS OF A PAPER PUBLISHED BY MR. A. G. BUTLER, ON "THE NATURAL AFFINITIES OF THE LEPIDOPTERA REFERRED TO THE GENUS *ACRONYCTA*," IN THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

Mr. Harrison G. Dyar says (p. 57), in his references to a paper by Mr. A. G. Butler, on "The Natural Affinities of the Lepidoptera referred to the Genus *Acronycta*," that he has "not seen any refutation of Mr. Butler's arguments, etc.," and comes to the conclusion that "Mr. Butler's position appears to have been ill-founded." If Mr. Dyar refers to *The Entomologists' Record*, Vol. I., pp. 269-271; Vol. II., p. 82; Vol. II., pp. 104-106; Vol. II., p. 150; *British Noctuae and Their Varieties*, Vol. IV., p. xxiii., he will find that Mr. Butler's paper has been very severely criticised by various entomologists, quite sufficiently, I have no doubt, to have deterred any one in touch with entomological work in Europe from "adopting his conclusions."

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