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may hope to prevent the fertile States to the east from future calamity. This knowledge can never be acquired by any single individual. The subject is of national importance, and should receive the consideration of the National Government. It is not merely the question of saving to the nation, in future, such vast sums of money as this insect has filched from the producers of some of the Western States (amounting during the past three years to many millions of dollars); it is a question affecting the welfare of the whole commonwealth on the other side of the Mississippi, and the ultimate settlement of a vast tract of country extending from the base of the Rocky Mountains eastward, to which settlement the ravages of the locust in question offer the most serious obstacle."

We have quoted somewhat fully from Prof. Riley's paper, as almost every word of it is just as applicable to the Dominion of Canada and the Province of Manitoba as to the United States and the State of Missouri.

As a result of the papers of Messrs. LeConte and Riley, the standing Committee of the American Association authorized the circulation, for the signatures of members, of a memorial to the Congress of the United States; we understand that it was signed by many most influential and distinguished members.

The text of the memorial will be found in the introductory portion of this report.

Should the Congress of the United States accede to the prayer of this memorial, as we trust they will, it is earnestly to be hoped that the Legislature of the Dominion will appoint a similar Commission, to co-operate with that of our neighbours in all matters that concern vast areas of the continent, and not merely particular localities. In the case of the locust, it is evident that an exploration of the British American portion of the Rocky Mountains lying between the 49th and 51st parallels of latitude, if not somewhat further to the north as well, is urgently needed with a view to the discovery of the native haunts of the insect, or at any rate to the settlement of the question whether it breeds within the limits of our country or not. Much indeed might be done by the addition of a competent entomologist to the staff of the various surveying parties that are from time to time sent out for the settlement of boundaries, and the surveying of railway routes. Should it be discovered that the locusts do deposit their eggs and come to maturity year after year in any special locality on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, then it would be a wise expenditure of public money to send a properly equipped party to the haunt of the enemy, and strive by every means to accomplish his extermination. The expenses of such a force would be a thousand times repaid by the saving of the crops and fruits of the farmers of Manitoba, and by the removal of what is felt by many to be a serious drawback to the settlement of the Province. Should our neighbours, however, south of the 49th parallel, not unite in the endeavour to keep the enemy in control, any labour on our part would be of little avail. Just as a farmer cannot hope to exterminate the thistles from his fields, if those about him allow the weed to scatter its seeds with every wind that blows; so we cannot hope to free our own territory from recurring plagues of locusts, if the Government of the United States do not join with us in the work. In any case, however, it will be wise to lose no time in discovering, by careful exploration, whether the insect is indigenous to British America or not. The settlement of this point will be one great step towards the accomplishment of an efficient protection against future invasions.

Since the above was written we learn that a Bill has been introduced into the Senate of the United States by the Hon. Mr. Ingalls, for the Protection of Agriculture, and that it has been received and referred to a Committee. In the introduction of the Bill especial reference was made to the depredations of locusts, chinch-bugs, army-worms, cotton-worms, the Hessian fly, &c. It was stated that the farmers of the United States are estimated to have suffered a loss last year of \$200,000,000 by these insects, and that \$40,000,000 would hardly cover the loss by locusts alone; it was further declared that in seven counties of Minnesota \$80,000 were expended in destroying 60,00 bushels of locusts.

The Bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to appoint, upon the nomination of the National Academy of Sciences, a Commission, to consist of three eminent entomologists, to serve five years, at a salary of \$5,000 per annum each, and to be allowed travelling expenses, &c. They are to devote themselves to the investigation of insects most injurious to the great staples, especially the Rocky Mountain locust, the army-worm, chinch-bug, Hessian fly and cotton-worm. The results of their labours are to be reported to Congress at least once a year.