

Q. Have you noticed any appreciable deficiency in the crops of your district, owing to the depredations of birds and insects?

A. Our wheat suffers very seriously from what we call the weevil, and this year the crop failed in many places. In fact, it may be said to have succeeded only where it was sown in a position where the crops would be exposed to the wind.

*By Mr. Bain.*

Q. Do you try early and late sowing, to see if you cannot fight the insects in that way?

A. We have tried all kinds of remedies, but so far as the time for sowing is concerned, our seasons are so short that we cannot afford to wait. I sow as early as I can: I sowed in April last season. I am situated between two lakes, and the wind has a pretty good sweep over my land. We had abandoned wheat growing for about 20 years, but it has been resumed again in some places, and I have gone on increasing the area till last year I had 25 acres.

*By the Chairman.*

Q. What crops and fruit products have suffered most, and from what classes of insects or birds?

A. Our wheat, as I have said, has suffered seriously from the weevil.

Q. Have your fruit trees suffered also?

A. They have suffered from insects—the borer and others—but as I am not a fruit grower, I am not prepared to give a clear answer on that point. I simply know from hearsay.

Q. What steps are taken to keep down insects?

A. For years the cultivation of wheat was abandoned with the hope of destroying the germs of the weevil, now they are beginning to grow wheat again, and the crop is becoming better.

Q. Have the timber trees of your district suffered any from insects?

A. Shade trees have suffered from caterpillars, but the timber trees in the forest have not suffered at all. The shade trees in the neighborhood of Halifax were totally stripped.

*By Mr. Bain.*

Q. What variety of trees do they attack mostly?

A. They do not seem to be at all particular. They attack any kind of tree they can find, in the shape of shade trees, in the neighbourhood of Halifax. I am told also, that they attack forest trees in some districts.

Q. Would you recommend the appointment of an entomologist, whose duty it would be to give information concerning birds and insects, injurious or beneficial, and the means of protecting the crops against their ravages, as likely to

accomplish any benefit to the farming classes?

A. Undoubtedly he would, if he was located in the neighbourhood within reach; but an entomologist 1200 miles away, unless he was either able to come to the insects or the insects to him, would not be of very great value. An entomologist, however, in connection with what you spoke of earlier—experiment stations—would, I think, be valuable.

*By Mr. Landry, (Montmagmy).*

Q. Do you not think an entomologist here at Ottawa would be able to render important service, by having cases reported to him here.

A. Not unless he was a witness of the damage done.

Q. But when he is acquainted with the nature and habits of the insect pests, do you not think he could give very important advice and information on the subject, even though he is far away?

A. I think he would be of far greater value if he was in the neighbourhood. I think it is highly desirable to have him where he can see the workings of the insects and take measures to eradicate them, and be responsible for their suppression or extinction.

*By Mr. McDougald.*

Q. You think the field is too large for one entomologist to do good service?

A. I think it would be beyond his capacity. Of course, he would be of some value.

*By Mr. Landry, (Montmagmy).*

Q. Do you not think that if it was possible only to employ one entomologist and have him placed in charge of a central station, he could give information to all through the whole country?

A. I think it would be far better than to have none at all.

*By the Chairman.*

Q. Have you read a book written by Mr. Saunders, of London, Ont., on insects injurious to fruit trees and crops?

A. I have not.

*By Mr. Bain.*

Q. I suppose an entomologist, situated locally, would be of use most where a local pest, peculiar to the district, should break out, because he could then go and examine the circumstances and all the conditions, and he would be able better to point out a remedy?

A. Yes, and if the central entomologist is able to visit the locality he would be just as useful.

Q. But take, for instance, the case of the tent caterpillar, which is found in all parts of the country and is pretty well known. In the event of a visitation from this insect in any distant part of the Dominion, the entomologist at the central station could be put in possession of all the facts by correspondence. But if it was a case in which a new insect

made its appearance, it would be his duty to visit the locality and observe the operations of the insect, and all the conditions?

A. Yes, I suppose so.

*By the Chairman.*

Q. Would it be desirable to extend the duties of the present system of veterinary inspection of stock in quarantine and, if useful, the staff also, with a view of dealing with the local development of infectious diseases, among farm stock and poultry throughout the Dominion, and the best means of stamping them out?

A. Do you mean by this to ask whether or not it would be desirable to extend the quarantine stations also?

Q. I mean, to have a veterinary surgeon employed by the Bureau here, who could visit any place and investigate diseases and give the necessary remedies for stamping them out.

A. You do not refer only to the importation of stock?

Q. Not only to imported stock, but to Canadian stock also.

A. With reference to the question of quarantine, we have no quarantine station for animals imported from the States nearer than Sarnia. Consequently, if we wish to import an animal from Boston, we have to bring it all the way round by the Grand Trunk Railway.

*By Mr. Bain.*

Q. Where is your nearest quarantine station?

A. At Quebec. We have none in the Maritime Provinces at all. If we wish to import an animal from Liverpool, we must bring it around by Quebec; if from Boston, we have to go round by Sarnia. This is extremely inconvenient; in fact, it practically prohibits importation to our Provinces. We earnestly desire that quarantine stations should be established at Halifax, and, it is suggested, at Yarmouth also, and that the staff should be held available to visit localities where there is any doubt as to the existence of infectious disease, and take the necessary steps to prevent its ravages. It is desirable that the veterinary staff should be composed of men of recognized ability, and that they should be made available also to enable us to import cattle direct.

*By the Chairman.*

Q. Is there in your neighborhood sufficient standing timber to supply shade, fuel, and other domestic wants?

A. So far, there is no deficiency; we still export lumber largely.

Q. Have any steps been taken to maintain this supply, or to re-plant where it has failed?

A. No steps have been taken in the direction of re-planting, but efforts are made to prevent the destruction of forests