
REPORT OF THE ENTOMOLOGIST AND BOTANIST.

(JAMES FLETCHER, F.R.S.C., F.L.S.)

To Prof. W. SAUNDERS,
Director of the Dominion Experimental Farms,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit herewith a report of observations on injurious insects, chiefly during the year 1887, with the methods of prevention and remedy which I have suggested when their ravages have been brought under my notice. My last and second report as Dominion Entomologist covering the year 1885, was issued by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture as an appendix to his report in the spring of 1886. Since that time no opportunity has been lost to distribute information concerning injurious and beneficial insects amongst those engaged in farming and horticultural operations. Through the generosity of the Hon. Minister I was allowed to have 1,000 copies of my last report printed separately, for distribution amongst my correspondents. This number he again increased at the request of the Committee on Agriculture and Colonization to 11,000 in English and French. The whole of the issue has been exhausted, and I trust that the information distributed by this means amongst the farming community may have been found useful. I have to thank the press, particularly the French press of Lower Canada, for drawing the attention of their readers to this publication, also to the clergy of the Province who aided me materially in this work. Although no report upon injurious insects was prepared last year, the Government has published in full some evidence upon the same subject which I had the honour of giving before the Select Committee on Agriculture and Colonization during the last Session of Parliament. As that report will be distributed widely amongst the constituents of Members of Parliament, I am in hopes that the facts there related may be found useful to those who may read them. Up to the 1st of July last, my work as Dominion Entomologist had to be performed in addition to my duties as accountant in the Library of Parliament. This necessarily curtailed my opportunities for gathering and disseminating facts concerning the injuries committed by insects and the most suitable remedies. Since my transfer to your department as Entomologist and Botanist at the Central Experimental Farm, other pressing work connected with the office has taken up the greater part of my time; but plans have been laid for execution during the ensuing season, by which it is hoped that some of the usual attacks by insects will be anticipated and the farmers reminded beforehand of such preventive remedies as have been found useful in the past. Up to the present this has been done chiefly by means of letters addressed to the press; but upon one subject, the Clover-seed Midge, which demanded special attention, it was thought advisable to issue a printed letter giving an enlarged figure of the insect, and the most successful method of dealing with it. This was sent to farmers in those districts where clover is grown for seed. For the future I believe that all information of this nature will be most advantageously conveyed to the agricultural classes in the way which you have proposed, namely, by inserting it in the Bulletins to be regularly issued from the farm. In this way it will come into the hands of all who receive these bulletins, which will be doubtless fully appreciated and carefully preserved.

During the past autumn efforts were made to gather together from the woods and fields in this locality, as large a collection as possible of the roots of our native plants. These were carefully removed and placed in nursery rows preparatory to