

On examining a number of these chrysalids, a large proportion of them were found to be infested with parasites, which materially lessens the chances of their being so very numerous again next year; still we fear that enough of them passed safely through all their preparatory stages to give us some trouble another season.

The Cabbage Butterfly, *Pieris rapæ*, is still progressing westward. This year it has extended its domain as far as Chicago, where a few of the advance guard have been captured. In the neighbourhood of London their larvæ have been very destructive this summer, so disfiguring and destroying the cabbages in many instances as to render them entirely worthless. The history of the introduction of this pretty little pest forms an interesting chapter in our Entomological annals. During the time of the Trent difficulty in 1861, a quantity of fresh vegetables were sent along with other stores to Quebec for the sustenance of the gallant little army which was despatched to our shores. As the Cabbage Butterfly is said to have made its appearance shortly after this period, it is presumed that it was accidentally introduced with the stores for the troops. In 1863 specimens were sent to us from this district for determination, which was the first intimation we had of their existence in this country. By 1866 the butterfly had spread further west than Montreal, and east as far as the Saguenay River. In 1869 it was reported as common in New Jersey, and by 1871 it had travelled east as far as Halifax, Nova Scotia, and west to the middle of the State of New York. It now embraces an area bounded by the shores of the Atlantic from the River St. Lawrence to Virginia, and has overrun the whole country westward as far as Chicago. A few days since, while on a visit to the Muskoka District, I was surprised to find them plentiful, in company with the Colorado Potato Beetle, as far north as the head of Lake Rosseau. 1877

The wonderful manner in which this insect has adapted itself to the varying climatic characteristics embraced within this wide area, is a matter of astonishment. It seems to thrive alike in the cold north and sunny south, and in every place where it established itself it has multiplied so rapidly as to become in a very short time the commonest of all butterflies. The little parasite, *Pteromalus puparum*, which has also fortunately been introduced from Europe, and which is finally destined to keep this pest within reasonable bounds, is on the increase here, but is not yet sufficiently numerous to fulfil its mission as successfully as we could wish.

The Colorado Potato Beetle, as predicted, has at last found its way across the Atlantic, and founded colonies on the Continent and in the British Isles. Their arrival and settlement has caused a commotion almost as great as would the approach of a hostile army. According to newspaper accounts, large patches of ground where the enemy has been seen lurking have been saturated with benzine and fired, while in the search, the whole surface has been turned over with the spade and shovel as carefully as if each specimen were a nugget of gold or a diamond. cargoes of all sorts in which it was suspected the intruders could find a hiding place have been submitted to the most rigid examination by government officials, and various edicts were promulgated, with a view to strangle this evil in its infancy; but the beetle is heedless of enactments, however prohibitory, and we fear that no vigilance, no matter how persistent, will prevail in preventing the spread of this little intruder, and that before long the potato grower in Europe will be obliged to regularly adopt measures for poisoning this pest similar to those so successfully carried out by our own people.

Since I was last privileged to address you, the Congress of the United States, in view of the enormous losses yearly inflicted on agriculture by destructive insects, have appointed an Entomological Commission composed of eminent Entomologists, who shall devote their whole time for several years to a study of the habits of the various insect pests, and the thorough testing of the efficiency of such remedies as have been or may be devised for their destruction, and to report progress from time to time. A liberal appropriation to defray the expense of this work has been made, and the labourers are now actively engaged in the field.

Early in the year, your President was requested by the Chief of this Commission, Prof. C. V. Riley, to bring this important matter before our Government and ask their influence towards furthering the objects in view. Accordingly, at a meeting of the Council of Agriculture, held in June last, the writer introduced a resolution urging the co-operation of our Government with that of the United States in this undertaking, which was unanimously adopted by the Board and transmitted to the proper authorities. I am pleased to be able to state that the Minister of Agriculture, in his reply, assured us that this subject had already

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