

is intended here," evidently on the assumption that Brookins's first hearing of the alarm on Long Island was coincident with the first alarm—an assumption by no means necessary, and one which only complicates the matter. If we grant Mr Brookins's statement to be reliable, there would be nothing remarkable in it as an observation of 1786. But whether for 1776 or 1786 it were folly to overthrow prevailing record and belief by one such unverified statement as this, where the chances are so great of inaccuracy from mere hearsay, and Fitch was justified in stating the strong probability that it was some other insect which was found by Col. Brookins.

Mr. Phillips's statements, as the readers of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST are aware, are of a very different character. In response to Hagen's inquiries, made to Prof. J. P. Lesley, Mr. Phillips wrote as follows :

"At the request of Prof. Lesley, I have examined our old minutes in reference to the Hessian Fly, and append on next page the results of my search. I know *positively* that before the revolution our newspapers were full of communications in reference to the Hessian Fly *eo nomine*. I cannot call to mind any one paper, but I remember perfectly frequently seeing these articles when reading for other purposes. I cannot find that the committee ever reported."

The following are the extracts from the minutes as furnished by Mr. Phillips :

1768, May 18. Com. on Husbandry to consider whether any method can be fallen upon for preventing the damage done to wheat by the Hessian Fly. [N. B.—Mr. DuHamel has written on the subject.]

1768, June 21. Papers on the Hessian Fly read by Dr. Bond, ordered to be published. See No. 4, original papers.

1768, Oct. 18. Col. Landon Carter, Sabine Hill, Va., observations on the Fly Weevil destructive to wheat ; ordered to be published. [Is published in Vol. 1. of the Transactions of the Society. Cf. Harris, Injur. Ins., pp. 502. Dr. H. A. H.]

And upon being again questioned by Dr. Hagen as to the possibility of error Mr. Phillips writes :

"1. 1768 is not an error. It occurs in the proper place in the old M.S. Vol., and there can be *no doubt* about the fact. *Similiter* the words *Hessian Fly*.

"The term came in use in Pennsylvania from the early German immigrants long before the revolution. I am *sure* the term occurs in our Pennsylvania gazettes long prior to that period.

"2. Cannot say if that paper (of Bond) was ever published. Possibly in some gazette *pro bono publico*. There is no clerical error as to the date and name."

Since this correspondence was published by Dr. Hagen in the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST, the early minutes of the American Philosophical