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War upon the Cutworm and the Army Worm

we go to press a memorandum of the first importance to Western farmers and truck growers has been issued by the authority of Hon. Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture. The Department has been informed of the fact that large areas of crop land have been attacked by cutworm—particularly in the Prairie Provinces, and that in many places fields of grain have been almost totally destroyed.

This is a most disappointing off-set to the splendid season in every other respect, but we still encourage the hope that the evil may be found to be to a great extent a local one-it usually is. From a knowledge of the beast, however, we are satisfied that the very conditions of our season provide the best indications that the cutworm and the army worm will have a royal time of it in 1915 unless they are fought continuously day and night.

Our esteemed contemporary, "The Nor'-West Farmer," advises a propaganda of poisoned bait, the details of which are given in the memorandum issued by the Department. The efficacy of this bait has been proved, and we take our part in urging the unsparing use of it everywhere. It cannot be a matter of the moment only and to be dealt with as the mood fits. This menace is going to spread, and it cannot fail to spread beyond human reach unless its character is fully

We wish to point out that those caterpillars which have done so much damage to the spring crop were hatched (many of them) late last fall, at all events the eggs were laid by the winged female moth before the freeze came. Those that were hatched continued to feed until the frost made itself felt to them when they sought a warm corner in which to sleep during the winter in the stubble or other roots. As soon as the spring opened, they started business afresh.

Briefly and simply the above is the history of the cutworm which is now at work and for weeks has been feeding at an enormous pace at the expense of the farmers. In a few days, if it has not already taken place, those worms will assume the third stage of their metamorphosis—the chrysalis form and if your fish haven't caught the bait before then, the bait to that extent has been wasted.

From about the last week in June until the late fall, there will be a priceless opportunity to strike at the root of all the mischief—the parent insect of these worms. Every female cut worm moth will be the mother of a brood of from seven hundred to a thousand or more cut worms for the spring crop of 1916. When you poison one cutworm you destroy only one cutworm. When you swat one female winged insect, you destroy at once a possible ten hundred cutworms.

The Canadian Thresherman and Farmer refers its readers to the article "A New Light on the Cutworm and Army Worm," published in its August issue of 1914, which describes the process of ridding any neighborhood of this pest by means of the sugaring process and the moth-trap. This article has been reprinted and is at the disposal of any subscriber, free. It is in no sense a competitive scheme to the poisoned bait but supplementary to it, and if energetically pursued while the opportunity is ripe, the end of the cutworm as a destructive force is well assured.



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