

EXTENT OF DAMAGE.

We found that the districts most affected by the insect were those portions of the Province situated on the frontier, between Sarnia and Amherstburgh, and extending inland from twenty to forty miles; but we have obtained undoubted evidence of the fact, that in smaller but rapidly increasing numbers this pest has spread over a very large portion of the Province, embracing Bayfield to the North, the neighborhood of Toronto to the east, and over almost the entire portion of the western section of the country. It must be remembered, however, that those insects we have seen are of the first brood only, and as the season advances we shall, without doubt, receive reports of great injury sustained in many districts by the succeeding broods. Already several instances have come under our notice of parties who have been so discouraged by the utter destruction of their potato vines, that they have ploughed up entire fields and sown other crops in their place. We anticipate that the large amount of shipping daily passing down the Detroit river, and the continual movement of railway cars from affected districts, both in Ontario and the United States, to the eastern portions of the Provinces, will, by affording shelter and means of transport to the beetle, distribute this insect shortly over the entire coast line and portions of the country through which the railways pass.

ITS PROBABLE CONTINUANCE.

From all the information we have been able to obtain from competent observers in those Western States which first suffered from the depredations of this foe, we deem it highly probable that we shall have to contend with it for many years to come. In the course of three or four summers our agriculturists may expect that the insect enemies of this beetle, of which we already know some nine or ten to exist in Canada, and which prey upon the eggs and larvæ, will, in the natural order of things, so multiply as materially to check the further increase of the Colorado Beetle.

IS IT POISONOUS?

As many stories are current relating to the supposed poisonous character of this insect, we made it a special point to obtain all the information possible on this head, and we were unable to find the slightest evidence to sustain this popular belief, although we conversed with many persons who had handled and destroyed many thousands of the insects in their different stages, and also handled them freely ourselves with impunity.