

The Farm

THE HESSIAN FLY.

This wheat pest is no new thing in this country. It was imported hither in 1776 by the Hessian troops that the English brought over to help subdue her rebellious colonists. In a timely bulletin on the subject just issued by the Cornell Experiment Station, I am glad to see confirmation of its life history what I had learned in 1845 and 1846, when a lad. Then my father was a wheat grower for those times, that cereal being his main crop. In 1845 his wheat was partially destroyed, and the next year it went down almost entirely, to his great loss and grief, as he was in debt for the farm, and depended on wheat to make a payment. He then read to me, I think from "The Albany Cultivator," about as the Cornell station now asserts, that "It was brought to Staten and Long islands in straw by the Hessian troops"; but that account went a little further, and said that these troops emptied their straw bedticks on those islands where they landed, and the straw being infested with germs of the fly the pest soon spread all over the country. I have deplored the name ever since. The bulletin quoted from states it is estimated that in 1846 the loss from the pest in Western New-York was not less than 500,000 bushels of wheat. There seems to be "Hessian fly periods" at very irregular intervals. These have occurred in the years 1779, 1817, 1845-'46 and 1877. In this year of 1901 a conservative estimate of the loss by the pest in New-York is placed at \$3,000,000 by the Cornell station. As regards varieties of wheat immune from or not subject to the pest, it is believed that none are so. It is strange a variety may escape at times when all surrounding varieties are affected; and again this apparently exempt variety may suffer as badly or worse than any other variety in the locality. For instance, in Western New-York this season a variety known as Dawson's Golden Chaff escaped very generally, while across the border in Ontario two correspondents of the station at different points say this variety suffered the worst of any. I give below entire the conclusions arrived at by the Cornell station in view of the present conditions:

First—That wheat raising need not be abandoned, but the number of acres should be reduced until by reason of such reduction every acre sowed will be raised under superior conditions.

Second—That the soil must be so well fitted and so fertile that a strong, healthy growth will be secured in the fall though the sowing of the seed be delayed ten or fifteen days beyond the usual time. Such preparation of the soil will also help the wheat to recover from any winter injury.

Third—That the Hessian fly injures the wheat more on dryish and poor land than on moist but well drained, rich soils.

SHOOT'S AGAIN.

Although Coffee Took His Eyesight For Awhile.

A Colorado camp cook had to quit his job because he could not make coffee without drinking it himself and it was killing him. He says he used to take a cup of coffee before he got his breakfast for the men, for he felt the need of keeping up his strength and his stomach troubled him so much.

"Finally," he says, "I got so bad I was taken to the hospital. The doctor told me it was a clear case of coffee poison and if I did not quit I would never get well. I had to quit in the hospital and gradually got a little better, then I took to drinking Postum Food Coffee and took it out with me to a job in the woods.

I have been using Postum steadily for about eighteen months and have entirely recovered from dyspepsia, and all my old aches and ills. My eyes are so well now that I can see the gun sights as good as any body, but two years ago I never could hunt because of my eyes. I know it is the quitting of coffee and using Postum that has benefited me. Nobody could have dyspepsia any worse than I had. All my neighbors thought I was going to die, but I am all right now. I have to send thirty-five miles to the city of Trinidad for my Postum but it is worth while." Wm. Green, Burwing, Colorado.

Fourth—That thick seeding and vigorous growth tend to ward off the fly.

Fifth—That the resisting power of varieties varies greatly. Those with large, coarse, strong straw are less liable to injury than weak strawed and slow growing varieties.

Sixth—That there were at least six varieties grown in the State this season that were not appreciably affected by the fly, though numerous other varieties in the same neighborhoods were much injured. Of these only Dawson's Golden Chaff has been tested at the station and this has been found to be a superior wheat for general culture. The other resistant varieties are Prosperity, No. 8, Democrat, Red Russian and White Chaff Mediterranean.

Seventh—That farmers in this State cannot be induced to cut and burn stubble with a view to destroying the insect, since the practice of seeding to grass and clover is almost universal, and burning the stubble, if possible to do so, would destroy the young meadow plants. Work is too pressing in midsummer to justify destroying the volunteer wheat that comes from the harvest shatterings. Much may be done, however, by sowing early in August, one or more strips on the side or sides of the field. The plants on these strips come on early and form ideal conditions for the laying of the eggs of the fly. Later, after the remainder of the field has been sowed the strips are ploughed deeply (using a skim or jointer attachment to the plough), fitted and sowed. This preventive measure is about the only one which is worth considering in addition to the late sowing of hardy varieties on well fitted, naturally fertile soil or soil made fertile by the liberal application of farm manures and commercial fertilizers.—(Dr. Galen Wilson.

In July last, several dozen of eggs, some of which were fertile and some infertile, were placed on bran in the drawer in an egg cabinet and kept in a cellar where the temperature ranged from fifty to sixty degrees. About the 15th of August some of these eggs were broken, but no perceptible difference could be seen in them. On Sept. 15 some more were broken with the same result, except a slight enlargement of the germ in the fertile eggs. On Oct. 15 more were broken, when it was quite apparent that the white of the fertile egg was much thinner than that of the infertile egg, and the germ was larger than at the previous test. At the Nov. 15 test, this was still more apparent, for in the fertile eggs the white was so very thin as to entirely leave yolk and run over the saucer like water, while the white of the infertile egg had apparently not changed at all. On Dec. 10 the last test was made, and the result was still more pronounced. The whites of all the fertile eggs broken were like water, and in a majority of cases the yolks broke and mixed with the whites, while on the yolks of those which did not break were to be noticed many dark spots and discolorations, showing clearly that the eggs were decaying. All of the fertile eggs broken at this December test were totally unfit for table purposes, and of little or no value for culinary purposes. In the infertile eggs, however, the whites and yolks were in the same condition as when tested in August, and showed no sign whatever of decay. These were quite fit for any purpose, but, of course, could not be called 'fresh' eggs. From the fertile eggs a bad smell was noticed, while from the infertile eggs nothing of this nature could be detected.

The Montreal Chamber of Commerce has adopted a resolution to be sent to the Minister of Marine in favor of some system of lights along the St. Lawrence river from the gulf to Montreal so that ships could go up at night.

Lieut. Col. Steele, writing from Pretoria, states that Major Ogilvy has been appointed inspecting manager of B. or Northern division South African Constabulary, at a salary of £750 a year.

Going Into Consumption

Thousands of Persons Are Hastening Towards Their Graves as a Result of This Dread Disease.

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Advertisement for Corticelli Skirt Protector. Includes illustration of a woman in a skirt and text: 'ANOTHER POINT. It costs no more to finish a good skirt with "Corticelli Skirt Protector," that will outwear the skirt, than to "rebind" the garment several times with cheap "bindings." "Corticelli Protector" is always in place, easily put on, looks well, can be got to match any shade, will not chafe fine shoes, will not shrink, sheds dust and dries quickly when wet. Sewed on flat, not turned over edge. Sold everywhere. Corticelli'

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