

By Mr. Johnston (Cardwell):

Q. The difficulty we find is that the sparrows took the bran off the grain, the sparrows would simply shell the grain and take the inside.

A. I think they would eat the wheat grains whole.

Q. There are some grains they will not eat. They will not eat buckwheat whole, and they will not eat oats whole. If you give them good wheat and oats they won't touch the wheat, until they have eaten the oats, which they will shell first?

A. I have noticed that, but they are very wise birds.

#### THE HESSIAN FLY.

The Hessian Fly did a great deal of harm in western Ontario last year, but the indications are that there will be less injury by it next year. Fall wheat sowing last autumn was for the most part done later than usual. This was strongly advised by those who had studied the habits of the insect, and the beneficial results were very marked last autumn. Fall wheat sown late, in western Ontario, went into winter with an excellent appearance, and I have every hope that there will be a better crop next season than there was last. There will be some injury, of course, because the Hessian Fly was very abundant and the maggots were present in fields sown early; but in many instances the injury will probably be less than in 1901. After a little while we shall get back again to normal conditions, and this will be sooner than otherwise, if farmers will only sow their wheat later, as a general rule.

By Mr. Ross (Ontario):

Q. Does it attack the fall as well as the spring wheat?

A. It does, and very much more than is usually noticed. The maggots live in the shoots of spring wheat close to the ground, and you will find that instead of there being 4 or 5 stools to a plant there is frequently only one which sends up a stem. This injury is exactly the same as is seen in autumn in fall wheat. The injury to spring wheat which is most often seen, is at the second joint of the stem. The injury to the young shoots is often overlooked.

By Mr. Robinson (Elgin):

Q. It attacks barley as well?

A. Yes.

By Mr. Ross (Ontario):

Q. Does it attack winter wheat in the fall?

A. Yes. The egg is laid in September, and the maggot destroys the young shoots and passes the winter in them.

By Mr. Stewart:

Q. Is it in the flax-seed state?

A. Yes, it passes the winter in the flax-seed state, which is simply a grub encased in a winter covering which is dark brown, and very much resembles a flax-seed.

Mr. STEWART.—I remember getting one in the winter of 1899, and I did not know what it was. We had it in parts of Manitoba in 1899.

The WITNESS.—Q. Was that in spring wheat?

A. Yes.