

insect abounds, it is so numerous as to cover the ground; it blackens the stalks of the plants upon which it feeds; it fills the air when, at seasons of its mating, it takes wing for flight; it marches to new feeding grounds in solid bodies, upon and over one another; its invading armies sweep over and utterly destroy a wheat or corn field in two or three days; and the nauseous bed-bug odour which they exhale sickens those who are compelled to breathe it.

"As the past history of the insect has shown that parasites and other enemies have entirely failed to arrest its multiplication, we are compelled to believe, from present indications, that it has come to stay, and that it will do so, unless effectual means are taken to prevent it. Its capability of increase is wonderful. Under the most conservative circumstances, a single chinch-bug, depositing its eggs about the 1st of June, would be, in the following August, the progenitor of a quarter of a million."

It is evidently most important that every practicable means should be employed in the endeavour to arrest as far as possible the progress of this mischievous foe, and to destroy it wherever found. Should it continue to increase, since it is already upon our borders, it will in all probability establish itself in force in the adjacent districts in Ontario, if indeed it has not done so already, and it may become to us a more formidable enemy than the wheat midge.

REMEDIES.

Where the insects are found among the roots of timothy, it is recommended to plough them under by turning over a flat (not overlapping) broad furrow as deep as possible, but not less than eight inches. It is said that the insect cannot survive this deep burial. Fire will certainly destroy it, and where the conditions of the grass will admit of burning, this measure should be resorted to; a thin covering of straw would prove a material aid in the burning. Where neither of these remedies can be applied the field should be heavily rolled as early in the spring as possible, for the purpose of preventing the bugs which have hibernated, from gaining easy access to the roots of the grass or grain on which to deposit their eggs. The use of common kerosine or coal oil has also been recommended, made into an emulsion by forcibly agitating it for a considerable time with an equal measure of milk, either sweet or sour, when it will become thick almost like butter, which, diluted with water, should be sprayed over the ground by means of a suitable pump; or the oil may be emulsified by agitating it thoroughly with a larger quantity of soapsuds and applied in the same manner.

69