

## C O L O R A D O   B E E T L E .

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RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 29 June 1877;—for,

“ COPY of the REPORT of the Canadian Minister of Agriculture on the  
COLORADO BEETLE :”

“ And, for COPIES or EXTRACTS of any other PAPERS on the Subject.”

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Council Office. }  
18 July 1877. }

C. L. PEEL.

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MEMORANDUM of the Canadian Minister of Agriculture upon reference of a  
Despatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the Subject of the  
COLORADO BEETLE.

THE undersigned, in accordance with a request of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, having carefully examined the Despatches of Lord Carnarvon, respectively bearing date the 3rd of March 1875 and the 28th of August 1876, has the honour to report as follows :

The occasion of considering measures for the prevention of the introduction of the Colorado potato beetle into other countries from Canada has not yet presented itself, and the information from the German authorities, conveyed to Her Majesty's Minister at Berlin, on the capture of the insect on board ships and at Bremen, as well as other information given by newspapers relative to its introduction into Sweden, shows that the beetles had come from the United States, having been shipped at ports the neighbourhoods of which were invaded by them.

The document furnished to Her Majesty's Minister at Berlin, a copy of which forms part of the Despatch of the 28th August last, contains the following remark

“ It may be considered an almost insoluble problem in regard to transatlantic ships traffic to prevent by more extensive supervisory measures the introduction of these beetles in Europe.”

The difficulty thus foreseen by the German authorities cannot but be self-evident when the habits and modes of progression of the insect are examined; for not only does it move by flying, and by navigating, so to speak, smooth water, but also travels on common vehicles, railway carriages, and platforms, on decks of vessels, &c., especially during the months of August and September.

In localities fully invaded, the beetles may be seen creeping on side walks, bridges, and wharves, crawling up buildings, occupying fences, lodging themselves in every crevice, penetrating houses and dwellings, ascending and occupying vehicles of all sorts, finding their way into boats and vessels, placing themselves on any and every article, and being found alive after a long sojourn in situations where there would seem to exist no chance for them to find any subsistence.

Such a short but correct *exposé* of the habits of the beetle as connected with the possibility of its penetrating almost anywhere, and by almost any means of transport, renders indeed insoluble the problem of absolutely preventing its inroad into new fields of devastation, no matter how remote or by what obstacles they may be separated from the regions already invaded.

It may be remarked in this respect that potatoes and their covering are neither more nor less apt to harbour the insect than anything else.

But if the absolute repelling of the invader is unfortunately beyond reach, the