

all Europe. It would therefore be equally fair to speak of the grasshopper as being a general European plague, because it commits occasional ravages in parts of Russia, Roumania, and Austria.

With regard to mosquitoes, they are in some parts of Canada in some seasons more or less troublesome, and may be classed among the smaller difficulties which pioneer settlers must encounter. But what country is entirely free from drawbacks? I think I could mention other important divisions of the Empire, such as Australia, which have not only troublesome insects, but centipedes, poisonous snakes, and other venomous reptiles, totally unknown in Canada. In some of the United States rattlesnakes and copperheads prevail. In many of the old civilised countries mosquitoes are not the only pests; in parts of Southern Europe it is well known that scorpions, venomous adders, and tarantulas are common, and yet people live and enjoy life in Spain, France, and sunny Italy.

Colonel French alluded to the occurrence of summer frosts on the Porcupine Duck, and Riding Mountains. There never has been the slightest attempt to conceal this or any other drawback. The summer frosts are referred to in my report of last year, page 315. Parts of all countries are subject to climatic peculiarities. If the farmers of the British Isles were appealed to, I am sure even they could support me in this statement. It cannot be forgotten that only last season the crops in some of the most highly cultivated counties in Scotland almost rotted in the ground, it having rained every day for some six or seven weeks. I myself saw late in November, in the rich county of Fife, unharvested grain, with some inches of snow on the ground.

I have now, I think, dealt with every point raised, and I may be permitted to say in conclusion, that in viewing Canada as a future home for millions, we must not look only at the drawbacks, far less should we unfairly exaggerate them. The advantages which the country possesses should also be considered and a balance struck. There is an immense breadth of fertile land to be occupied before any of the less-favoured regions need be thought of. The mosquitoes that exist in some sections will, I fear, have to be endured for some time to come, but they may not seriously retard settlement. We have much to contend with in a new country without magnifying small insects into undue importance. The man who lacks courage to do battle against a mosquito had better allow others to precede him. We require pioneers of sterner stuff in Canada. A few generations hence, when millions of hardy