

MR. GOTT.—I am very sorry to hear these charges brought against the English sparrow, because I am an Englishman myself by birth, and also by sentiment to some extent. I have not much experience with the English sparrow, because there are very few of them in our locality; but I should like some further observations of their habits in regard to this matter to be made, in order to ascertain whether these charges which are made against them, are well-founded or not.

MR. A. McD. ALLEN.—We have not had very extensive experience yet with the English sparrow; but we have had them in our section for some years, and I have been observing their habits carefully. There is no doubt they are a very pugnacious bird, driving away almost every other bird. There is no doubt that the English sparrow eats the fruit buds. It preys on the gooseberry buds particularly. I do not think it eats the buds of the black currant, but it picks them off by the score and drops them; and this winter I have seen sparrows on the Norway spruce digging the buds out and eating them. Towards the spring they prey on the plum. They feed on the cherry too.

MR. DOEL, Toronto.—I have found sparrows beneficial rather than otherwise. My place being so near Toronto, they come out there in the summer from the city; and I have found that where they are the thickest, my fruit is the best and the insects are fewer. This season I had but one Duchess Pear though the blossoms set very heavy; but I attribute my loss there not to the sparrows, but to three cold days that we had during an easterly storm. Immediately after that storm the buds all dropped off. Not so with my Bartlett's however; I had a good crop of them. Three years ago I overlooked two caterpillar nests in the apple trees in my orchard, and did not become aware of them until I saw some sparrows flying around those trees very lively; but when I went and looked at the nests, to my surprise there was nothing in them—the caterpillars were gone, and I noticed that from that time the sparrows were away from that place. I have not had a plum now for several years. Three years ago I had a very nice crop of them. Since then I have not had an average of one quart of plums a year. I do not attribute that to the sparrows, however. I do not find the sparrows so pugnacious. The smaller birds are about my house now as thick as ever, although I have seen flocks of fifty or sixty sparrows there. They drove the swallows away from underneath the eaves of my barn entirely, however, and took possession of their nests.

MR. CHAMBERS.—I have not a very large crop of fruit—what I have is mostly small currants and gooseberries; but I must say that as far as the gooseberries are concerned, the sparrows destroyed every bud. As to the currants, I cannot say so much. Last year I found the sparrows congregating in great numbers. I happen to live where there are thousands of them; that is, on the Exhibition Grounds. Last year I seeded down some ground with rye, and left it till it got ripe, and then the sparrows came in thousands, and I am sure they must have eaten one-third of it. So that whether they are of any benefit to the fruit grower or not, I am very certain they cannot be of any value to the farmer.

MR. A. M. BROWN.—Is there any gentleman here who can tell us with regard to their habit in the winter?

THE PRESIDENT.—With regard to their destructiveness to the fruit buds, I had ample proof last spring. I had two large Flemish Beauty trees which promised to blossom abundantly. The buds opened, and the young flowers were expanding, when the sparrows set on them. I watched them, and saw the sparrows eat the buds out until there was not a single bud or blossom left on either of those trees. To make sure that I was not deceived, I had some sparrows killed, and I found in their crops some of the flowers and organs of the flowers. I did not find any insects. There is no doubt that sparrows consume a large number of insects; but they do not feed on them themselves—they feed their young with them, and as they are very prolific there is no doubt they destroy a large number of caterpillars. But those pests are easily got rid of otherwise, and there are a great many enemies to injurious insects, which have not the bad habits that sparrows have. I am quite confident, that so far as the fruit growers are concerned, the English sparrow is a decided injury to them. From the conformation of their beak it is quite evident that they are a grain-feeding bird. While, then, there is no doubt that they do destroy a large number of injurious insects, I think on the whole the evidence is against

them, so far as the and have some En pains to assist in i sorry I did it. I premium on their fields where the gr same experience. these birds wherev and their grain ere these voracious bir have two or three think the Fruit G favour of removing.

MR. ARNOLD.—duced the sparrow find that you are o forgive you. I am threepence a dozen caused a great deal numerous in the to drive away other bi bird about three tir do not know the ns

THE PRESIDENT.

MR. ARNOLD.—would say let them

MR. BEADLE.—this association—a little fondness for o only upon the sparr or the fruit grower, the chairman take t this matter, and pei the nests and see wl with. I move that committee on crnith birds that are injuri

MR. A. M. SMITH

MR. DOEL.—It it would mutually b subject, as they mal ment to obtain in se ing the very point t

THE MOTION WAS

MR. CROIL.—Sc rate, I know that Sc they have to keep th nets at a very heavy

THE PRESIDENT.

sions. I propose th meeting in regard to

MR. WELLINGTON manner indicated by sparrow is detriment with the sparrow to

MR. A. McD. ALLEN I would say "entirel