

HOUSE OF COMMONS,  
COMMITTEE ROOM No. 46,  
SATURDAY, 4th July, 1891.

The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization met this day at 11 a.m., Mr. SPROULE, Chairman, presiding.

Mr. JAMES FLETCHER, Entomologist and Botanist of the Dominion Experimental Farms, being called for examination, said:—

Mr. CHAIRMAN,—I do not intend to begin with an apology, but I should like to give an explanation why, perhaps, I am not so well prepared to-day, as I might have been, to give you a comprehensive statement of the work that I have been doing during the past year, or as regards future work, and what may be considered the ultimate result of that work in connection with the Experimental Farms. The notice of to-day's meeting I only received this morning, in town, ten minutes after the time I ought to have been here in attendance on the Committee; consequently, I have not with me the notes I had prepared so as to give you a concise and systematic statement, nor have I some specimens of grasses and a spraying pump which I wished to have exhibited. Nevertheless, I shall endeavour to give you an outline statement, which I trust will be of interest to you and which will show, in some measure, the work that has been carried on.

The department of the Experimental Farm work, of which I am in charge, includes the divisions of Entomology and Botany, and these, to my mind, are second to none in importance of any work that has been carried on by the Government on the Experimental Farm. The interests at stake are so large, reaching to at least one-tenth of all crops grown, and the measures to be adopted to reduce the injury and loss to the country are so simple, and yet so important, that the only requisite is a knowledge amongst farmers of how and when to apply remedies. Therefore, it becomes necessary to make known, as widely as possible, throughout the country, to farmers and others interested, the nature of this important work which is being carried on for their benefit. I know of no way of accomplishing this with better effect than through the instrumentality of this Committee and of its individual members. I was, therefore, greatly pleased to receive the summons to come before it again, as I used to do regularly, until two years ago. Also, I appreciated the compliment to the work I have been carrying on, and am glad of the opportunity of bringing the importance of it before you to-day. I shall, during the short time I address the Committee, endeavour to give as concise an account as possible of this work.

Average loss  
of crops, by  
insects.

Our annual reports issued by the Department are necessarily condensed, and the amount of space that it is possible to devote to any one department is much smaller than serves to report even the outlines of all the different investigations that are being prosecuted. All that is possible is to give the most important records and those that we consider of the widest utility to farmers of the Dominion. There are certain local outbreaks of a destructive character, due to insects or fungi, results of local conditions and susceptible to local applications, and it is generally inadvisable to devote any large portion of the annual report to local incidents of this nature. But we issue bulletins, when necessary, to meet such cases as I have

Scope of  
reports.