

ernment, by which the excessive multiplication of the species in that region, and the consequent migration therefrom, may be prevented. It is understood that the recommendation to the Government will be, that in connection with the authorities in British America, efforts be made to restrain the extensive prairie fires in autumn which are common to that region, and subsequently to burn them in the spring after the hatching of the young locusts. This plan is believed to be feasible, as the breeding grounds are not co-extensive with the so-called Permanent region, but are limited to the richer valleys, plateaus and river borders within it.

The Commission will also, it is understood, in its forthcoming Report, recommend to the Government a scheme for a system of warning and prevention, through the aid of the mounted police patrol of the Dominion Government, and our Signal Bureau and military posts.

Having been favored with a transcript of the subjects to be treated of in the forthcoming 2nd Report of the Commission, and the assignment of subjects to the respective members of the Commission, I have no hesitancy in giving assurance of a volume of unusual interest and value. It is to be hoped that Congress will not repeat the inexcusable blunder of ordering of it an edition by far too small to supply the demand, or for the accomplishment of a main object in its laborious preparation—the diffusion of the needed information among those to whom it could not fail of proving beneficial.

The Commission is also occupied with investigation of the Hessian-fly and the Chinch-bug—each of which are chargeable with annual injuries to the amount of several millions of dollars.

The investigation of the natural history and habits of the Cotton-worm, commenced by the Department of Agriculture last year, has by direction of Congress, been transferred to the Entomological Commission. Prof. Riley has been pursuing its study in Southern Texas and in the Gulf States, aided by special assistants, and it is believed that discoveries have recently been made which will reduce the cost of destroying the larvæ to perhaps a fourth of what it has hitherto been.

Among the special subjects of study which have claimed attention lately, an interesting one has been the pupation of butterflies. Observations made during the past year on the pupation of some of our butterflies have shown us that we have been at fault in accepting the account given of it by Reaumur over a century ago, and received and quoted by