

occasions, a mere essay or compilation of the history and peculiarities of this insect to be found in the writings of Harris, Fitch, Kirby, and others, will prove of little value. We have read them all and so far as prevention or remedy is concerned, find ourselves but little wiser for our pains. What the country wants, is the organisation of a system of observation and experiment, to be carried on for a series of years in each township. The observers might be selected from the most intelligent members of Agricultural Societies. They should be furnished with specimens in the *fly* as well as the *larva* state of the various insects to be noticed, together with a short description, and their proper scientific as well as popular names. A formula should be drawn up as a guide to each observer, so that results may be properly recorded and classified. If any remedy exists, if any means can be adopted to rid the country of this pest, or to check its progress, this is the way to find it out, and secure for it when announced the public confidence. When will the Bureau, or Board of Agriculture move? How long must the farmers of Canada wait to see the fruit that was promised when these departments were established?

The injury which Canada will sustain this year from the depredations of the *midge*, may be estimated at millions of dollars; next year, as we have every reason to fear, it will be worse. Some have recommended the total abandonment of wheat culture for two or three years. This remedy may indeed be the only one that will effect a cure. But has any one counted the cost; have the consequences been duly considered? It is estimated that we exported last year, about nine millions of bushels, at an average price of a dollar-and-a-half per bushel. Now, what will be the effect upon our industrial interests, upon our trade and commerce, upon our public improvements, upon our financial credit, at home and abroad, upon the public revenues, which an extravagant legislature and a reckless government have pledged to their full amount for the next twenty years if this chief source of income be suddenly dried up, even though the drought last but two years?

Mr. Mechl, the agricultural experimentalist, naively remarks in a book he has lately put forth, that "a month's holiday to the British stomach would settle all our manufactures, commerce, and philosophy." And, an English politician once suggested as the only remedy for the political grievances of a certain troublesome community, that the Island they inhabited should be submerged for about fifteen minutes! The cure proposed in our case, appears to belong pretty much to the same category. That our farmers have, for some years, grown too much wheat in proportion to other crops; that they have not prepared their fallows with sufficient care, frequently growing wheat *after wheat*,—which we believe is the chief cause of the rapid increase of insects—must be admitted, and we think it will be found that in sections of the country where good cultivation is practiced, where the wheat stubble is ploughed in the fall, and *ploughed deep*, where wheat is never allowed to follow wheat, and where hardy varieties are generally sown, the insect gives but little trouble. Of course, the advantage of such a plan cannot be fully ascertained, so long as farmers here and there, adhere to the old system. One field in a township allowed to stand as a breeding-patch for the *larvæ* of the *midge*, will be sufficient