

The Colorado Potato Beetle (*Doryphora decemlineata*, Say) has made itself apparent in Nova Scotia and Manitoba in such numbers as to demand the attention of farmers. Specimens of the true Colorado beetle were sent to me by Mr. E. H. Struthers which had been collected in St. James's west of Winnipeg. Paris Green still remains the standard remedy for this pest, and the most advantageous way to apply it is by mixing a teaspoonful in a pail of water and shaking it over the vines with an ordinary whisk. Wisps of straw and hay or small boughs which I frequently see used by farmers are a mistake, and waste more time and poison than would pay for many whisks. Of course all beetles which attack the plant in the same way as the Colorado beetle may be treated in a similar manner. Of this class are a small flea-beetle which Rev. G. W. Taylor reports as riddling the foliage of potatoes at Victoria, B.C., and also one of the Blister Beetles (*Epicauta maculata*, Say) specimens of which have been sent to me from different localities in the North-West Territories.

His Honour Lieutenant Governor Dewdney writes in July last: "I enclose herewith three specimens sent by our Indian agent at the Blackfoot Crossing, Gleichen, which he states were found in his garden. They appear to be in numbers and have been particularly destructive to his potatoes, having destroyed 50 hills in a very short space of time, apparently the potatoes are destroyed in a similar way as by the Colorado bug in the east; but much more rapidly."

About the same time in 1886 I also received specimens from Mr. Acton Burrows, then Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Manitoba, which had been "sent in by Mr. S. W. Chambers, farming instructor on the Blood Indian Agency, Fort Macleod, and which he said were working sad havoc in the gardens on the reserve."

In the larval state, the beetles of this family are parasitic on other insects, but in the perfect condition they eat vegetable food. The present species I have also taken in numbers at Stillwater, Montana, where it was feeding on the Grease-wood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*, Tor.)

Wire-worms, which are the larvæ of the Skip-Jack beetles (*Elateridæ*) have not been complained of as attacking potatoes, except in one instance, where they were very severe in their attack. Rev. G. W. Taylor, of Victoria, B.C., tells me of a farmer who lost nearly every tuber on an acre planted to potatoes. The best remedy for these troublesome insects is a frequent use of the hoe, by which all weeds are kept down, and care must be taken to remove all the injured potatoes at once when dug. If this be done, and the crop at once carted from the field, the Wire-worms are carried away with the potatoes, and as they very soon leave the tubers when the latter are removed from the soil, they can be gathered up from the bottom of the cart and destroyed.

CABBOTS.

Carrots and parsnips are little troubled with insects as a rule. During the past year I have received from several quarters, the beautiful larvæ of the common Black Swallow-Tail Butterfly (*Papilio Asterias*, Fab.), which had been found commonly upon both of the above plants, as well as upon the fruiting stems of parsley. In addition to this, specimens of the leaves of carrots were sent to me by Mr. E. D. Arnaud, of Annapolis, N.S., in 1886, which were simply swarming with a species of *Aphis*. Again during the past summer, Mr. Josiah Wood, M.P., of Sackville, N.B., sent me leaves of both carrots and parsnips in exactly the same condition. Unluckily the species could not be identified from the crushed state in which the contents of both packets were received. All that could be seen were wingless females. I hope next year to get some winged specimens and identify the species. The first mentioned attack was cleared off by a visitation of large numbers of one of the beneficial "Lady-Bird" beetles (*Coccinella transversoguttata*, Fab.), and did not appear again the following season. The most serious attack upon the carrot crop to be recorded was by the