

# The Canadian Entomologist.

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## THE UNITED STATES ENTOMOLOGICAL COMMISSION.

The enormous losses occurring yearly to agriculture in America from destructive insects are gradually awakening public attention in this direction, and also to the necessity of careful observations on the habits of these pests, with a view to their destruction or limitation. We were much gratified to learn that the late Congress of the United States, recognizing the importance of this subject, made a liberal appropriation to provide for the appointment of a commission of practical Entomologists to investigate and study the habits and life history of these insect pests, and thoroughly test such measures as have been or may be suggested with the view of lessening their ravages, the investigations to be carried on for several consecutive years. The Government has been particularly fortunate in securing the services of three eminently practical Entomologists to undertake this work, Prof. Riley, State Entomologist of Missouri, Dr. A. S. Packard, of Salem, Mass., and Prof. C. Thomas, State Entomologist of Illinois; Prof. Riley has been designated chief, Dr Packard secretary, and Prof. Thomas disbursing agent. While the destructive Rocky Mountain Locust, *Caloptenus spretus*, will specially engage the attention of the Commission during this year, careful observations will at the same time be made on other destructive pests. We desire to call particular attention to Dr. Packard's request in this present issue for specimens in all stages of the Hessian Fly, Joint Worm and Wheat Midge, and trust that all our members will endeavor to aid the Commission in their labors in every possible way.

The headquarters of the Commission will be at St. Louis, Mo.; there will also be an office, with a clerk to attend to certain routine business, at the rooms of the Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories, at Washington, D. C., Dr. F. V. Hayden in charge.