

other in flight. The greater number were hovering over the swamps or spots of luxuriant grass, or resting on the prairie. A slight breath of wind would induce them all to take to wing, causing a noise like that of the distant sound of surf, or a gentle breeze among pine trees. They appeared ill at ease, and anxiously awaiting a favourable wind.

These eastern and northern hordes were those which afterwards fell on Manitoba, though a part of those hatched near the 49th parallel probably went south of that line. The dry season must have brought them to maturity rapidly, for in some parts of the province they arrived earlier than before known, though coming from the latest hatching grounds.

When examined in detail, the advance of the host loses to a considerable extent the definite form which it appears to have when more broadly viewed; for the grasshopper, like a sailing vessel, depends on the wind for propulsion, not having intrinsic power of swift flight; and the movement of the different bands is affected by all the mutations of the weather. Even omitting a few dubious dates, the well authenticated ones show a difference in the times of arrival in some parts of Manitoba, not corresponding with their geographical position. It appears certain that one extensive swarm traversed a part at least of the province north-eastward. They reached the Red River further south at Scratching River on July 11th. We hear of them on July 8th and 10th at St. Norbert, on the 14th at Winnipeg ten miles off, on the 17th at Little Britain seventeen miles further in the same direction. Swarms also arrived at Fort Ellice—180 miles west of Red River—with a similar direction of flight, on July 14th, or on the same day that they arrived at Winnipeg. These must have been a separate body travelling parallel to the first.

These dates only refer to the first arrival of locusts in considerable numbers, and the localities mentioned were afterwards traversed by other swarms. The second main direction of invasion, was from west to east, with occasional slight local deviations, and was that followed by most of the insects. Bands first appeared within the limits of the province on the Assiniboine River at Portage La Prairie on July 3rd. They seem to have travelled eastward along the river, reaching Poplar Point—fifteen miles off, on July 12th; other and very extensive swarms are heard of north-westward of Portage La Prairie, at Beautiful Plain on July 15th, at Burnside, July 17th, Palestine, July 19th;