

puparium or flax-seed state, from the resemblance which it bears in this condition to a grain of flax-seed. The attention of farmers was drawn to the depredations of the insect by a communication to the press, and information sought as to the extent of the evil. From letters received from various sections of the Province, it is evident that the insect prevails over an extended area, and that the sum total of the loss entailed on the agricultural community in Ontario from this cause would figure up to a large sum, probably hundreds of thousands of dollars. In 1876 and 1877 this insect appeared in considerable force and seriously injured the wheat crop in many parts of our Province, but since that time we have enjoyed comparative immunity from it until now.

The Hessian Fly belongs to the order of Diptera, or two-winged insects, and is about one tenth of an inch long, with dusky transparent wings fringed with fine hairs. There are two broods during the year. The flies which appear in the autumn deposit their eggs from one to twenty or more on a plant in the cavities between the ridges of the blades or between the stalk and sheathing base near the roots of the young fall wheat. These hatch in four or five days into tiny grubs, soft, smooth and shining, which work their way down the leaf to the base of the sheath, about the crown of the root. Here they fasten themselves head downwards to the tender stalk, live upon the sap and gradually become imbedded more or less in the substance of the stalk. When once located the larva moves no more, but growing rapidly, soon becomes plump, and when mature is about one sixth of an inch long, greenish, and semi-transparent; before long it changes to the flax-seed state, in which condition it remains throughout the winter. Early in spring the flies are produced, which deposit their eggs about the first or second joint of the stalk, where they pass through their several stages, assuming the flax-seed state a few weeks before the wheat ripens, from which the flies hatch in August and September.

The effect of the presence of this insect in the young fall wheat is to weaken the plants, which become unhealthy, turn yellow and sometimes die. Often there is a gall-like swelling or enlargement of the stalk near the base, in and about which the insects will be found. The unhealthy plants contrast strongly with the rich green of the vigorous uninjured grain. The late brood may be easily found by separating the leaf from the stalk of the young wheat in October or November; the early brood, as already stated, in the reclining stalks, which, when very numerous, makes the wheat appear as if "lodged" in patches.