

illustration of many that could be used to show the good predaceous insects do.

The more one studies insects and thinks over what takes place, the more inclined he is to feel that were it not for our insect friends our insect foes would make this earth almost or quite uninhabitable for man. I do not mean, however, that insects are the only forces at work in controlling our foes, because disease also plays a great part, as do also extremes of heat and cold and several other things.

We must pass on now to consider briefly our insect foes.

Insect Foes.

There is no doubt that injurious insects every year take a large toll from farmers and especially from fruitgrowers. As there is not time to discuss many of these insects, we shall devote our attention first to our worst two orchard insects, and then to a few of the chief pests of the field crops.

There are many insects that attack fruit trees, but two of these stand out prominently for their powers of destruction. These are the San José Scale and the Codling Moth. The former is the most destructive insect pest ever introduced into the province, but fortunately, though it has been here for twenty years, it has not spread beyond the south-western counties. It is a very small insect, circular, and when full grown, has about the same diameter as the head of a pin. Its powers of reproduction are wonderful: from a single female there may be more than a million offspring by the end of the year. As all of these attach themselves to the trunk, branches, twigs, leaves or fruit and suck the juices, they soon do a great deal of harm. Any orchard that becomes infested with this pest in the warmer parts of the Province, and is not sprayed, is doomed to complete destruction in a few years, even the largest apple trees being killed. An exception to this statement should be made in the case of sour cherries and to some extent of Kieffer pears, the former being immune and the latter not often severely attacked. Up to the present time there have been only a few parasites attacking this scale in Ontario, but we are hopeful that these will become abundant in a few years. We have endeavoured to hasten the process by introducing parasites from Pennsylvania, where they are doing much good. In the meantime