

EVIDENCE
OF
Mr. JAMES FLETCHER
ENTOMOLOGIST AND BOTANIST
BEFORE THE
SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
ON

AGRICULTURE AND COLONIZATION

SESSION OF 1892

COMMITTEE ROOM 46, HOUSE OF COMMONS,

WEDNESDAY, 13th April, 1892.

The Committee on Agriculture and Colonization met at 10 o'clock, Dr. Sproule, M.P., in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fletcher, the Entomologist and Botanist of the Experimental Farms, is with us this morning. I think we had better continue the course we have hitherto followed, and allow Mr. Fletcher to deliver his address, and afterwards any hon. member can ask any question he may desire.

Mr. FLETCHER: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I have now had the pleasure and honour of appearing before this Committee on several occasions, but there are some members of the Committee who may not be familiar with the work that I am intrusted with at the Experimental Farm. It is the study of insects and plants. The importance of these different branches of work is not yet thoroughly appreciated by farmers, but I find that they only require to be brought to their notice to convince them of their value. The different methods of publication in reports and bulletins from the Experimental Farm give us opportunities of bringing before the public such parts of the work as have been completed, and also of making suggestions which may be of use to agriculturists throughout the country.

ECONOMIC VALUE AND PROGRESS OF ENTOMOLOGICAL SCIENCE.

The newspaper press has also very materially assisted in this work by giving publicity to many minor experiments on matters which required immediate attention and upon which it is not advisable or possible to publish official documents. My own thanks are particularly due to the agricultural press, especially to the *Farmer's Advocate*, of London, the *Nor'-West Farmer*, our own local papers here, the *Weekly Mail*, of Toronto, and the *Prince Edward Island Farmer*. I mention these as papers which have been of use to me in my department, not by comparison with any other papers at all. They have applied for information concerning injurious insects, fungous diseases, or weeds, and have made it public when it was furnished them. In the North-west also there are some newspapers which have on different occasions made use of the department as a source of useful knowledge and have published the information so obtained for the good of the farmers in their circulation. These inquiries have been for the most part concerning insects, and, as I explained last