

the latter condition involved the destruction of all large colonies wherever they occurred, and would thus prevent the successful breeding of parasites. Such insects would require the most favourable conditions in order to become acclimatized, and this would necessitate the preservation of large colonies of the gypsy moth as food for the parasites. Should the work of extermination be abandoned, a careful study of the natural enemies of the gypsy moth in its native home would be advised.

At the request of Professor Fernald, Director Forbush gave an account of the progress made in the gypsy moth work and its present condition. He said that when this insect, which was introduced into Massachusetts more than twenty-five years ago, first became seriously destructive, a commission was appointed by the Governor to "prevent its spreading and secure its extermination." This commission found that the territory infested by the moth was much larger than had been supposed. The commission was superseded the next season by another, which in a short time was abolished, and the work was then turned over to the State Board of Agriculture.

The work was begun under a grave misconception of the amount of territory infested. As soon as the State Board assumed the direction of the undertaking, it was found that the infested territory extended, not, as believed by the first commission, over a small and well-defined area, but, instead, over some thirty cities and towns. The size of the infested territory as considered by the first commission, compared with the actual area later found to be infested, was very aptly illustrated by the comparison of the size of a silver dollar with that of a broad-brimmed hat.

With a region of two hundred and twenty square miles to be examined and cleared of the moth, the appropriations made the first two years proved entirely insufficient to do more than to destroy the larger swarms of the insect and clear them from a few of the towns on the periphery of the region. The two years' work demonstrated, however, to those in charge that the moths could be cleared from any given territory provided ample appropriations could be secured to organize, equip and train a sufficient force of men. The season of 1892 was rather unfavourable for the multiplication of the moths, and so much progress was made during that year that ten towns appeared to have been entirely cleared of the moth. The committee in charge of the work believed the time had come to strike a decisive blow. The Director and the Entomologist went carefully over the ground and estimated the cost, recommending in their