

pocket. When I opened the box they were not only alive, but were so active that I found some difficulty in collecting them to put them into the box again, which I did very carefully, and not without some anxiety lest one should escape. I may add that no kind of food whatever was put into the box, such is the amazing vitality of this insect; so that upon that score we are deprived of the consolation which Mr. McDonald's query would inspire. I lost no time in plunging the living specimens into a bottle of spirits of wine, from which they were removed to my cabinet after 24 hours' immersion."

A REUTER'S telegram from Dresden, dated August 9, says:—The *Official Journal* of to-day announces that the Colorado beetle has appeared in a potato field near Schildau, in the district of Torgau, not far from the frontier of Saxony, the fact having being verified yesterday by an official investigation. The journal adds that all precautionary measures were immediately taken by the authorities.

DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS' BILL.

The following Bill for preventing the introduction and spreading of insects destructive to crops, has passed the House of Lords, and is now in the House of Commons:

GREAT BRITAIN.

1. The Lords and others of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council (in this Act referred to as the Privy Council) may from time to time make such Orders as they may think expedient for preventing the introduction into Great Britain of the insect designated as *Doryphora decemlineata*, and commonly called the Colorado beetle.

Any such Order, if the Privy Council think fit, may prohibit or regulate the landing in Great Britain of potatoes, or of the stalks and leaves of potatoes, or other vegetable substance, or other article brought from any place out of Great Britain, the landing whereof may appear to the Privy Council likely to introduce the said insect into Great Britain, and may direct or authorise the destruction of any such article, if landed.

If any person lands or attempts to land any article in contravention of any Order under this Act, such article shall be liable to be forfeited in like manner as goods the importation whereof is prohibited by the Acts relating to the customs are liable to be forfeited; and the person so offending, shall be liable, according to those acts, to such penalties as are imposed on persons importing or attempting to import goods the importation whereof is prohibited by those Acts.

2. The Privy Council may from time to time make such orders as they think expedient for preventing the spreading in Great Britain of the said insect.

Any such order may, if the Privy Council think fit, direct or authorise the removal or destruction of any crop of potatoes or other crop or substance on which the said insect in any stage of existence, is found, or to or by means of which the said insect may appear to the Privy Council likely to spread, and the entering on any lands for the purpose of such removal or destruction, or for the purpose of any examination or inquiry authorised by the order, or for any other purpose of the Order.

Any such Order may, if the Privy Council think fit, prohibit the selling, or exposing or offering for sale, of living specimens of the said insect, in any stage of existence, or the distribution in any other manner of such specimens.

Any such Order may impose penalties for offences against the Order, not exceeding £10 for any offence; and those penalties shall by virtue of this Act be recoverable, with costs on summary conviction before two justices of the peace, and shall be applied as penalties recovered under the Contagious Diseases [Animals] Act, 1869, are applicable.

3. Where by any Order under this Act, the Privy Council direct or authorise the removal or destruction of any crop they may direct or authorise the payment by the Local Authority of compensation for the crop; and the Local Authority shall pay the same, subject and according to the following provisions:

(1). In the case of a crop on which the said insect, in any stage of existence, is found, the compensation shall not exceed one-half of the value of the crop.

(2). In every other case the compensation shall not exceed three-fourths of the value of the crop.

(3). The value of the crop shall in each case be taken to be the value which, in ordinary circumstances, the crop would have had at the time of its removal or destruction.

(4). The Local Authority may, if they think fit, require the value of the crop to be ascertained by their officers or by arbitration.

(5). The Local Authority may, if they think fit, withhold compensation if, in relation to the crop, the owner or the person having charge thereof, has, in their judgment, done anything in contravention of, or failed to do anything in compliance with, any Order under this Act.

4. The Local Authorities under the Contagious Diseases [Animals] Act, 1869, with their respective districts, local rates, clerks, and committees, shall be, in like manner, Local Authorities for the purposes of this Act.

The Privy Council may, if they think fit, require a Local Authority to carry into effect any Order of the Privy Council under this Act.

The expenses incurred and compensation paid by a Local Authority in pursuance of any Order under this Act shall be paid by them out of the local rate.

Every local Authority shall keep, in such manner and form as the Privy Council from to time by Order direct, a record relative to proceedings in pursuance of any Order under this Act, stating the date of the removal or destruction of any crop or substance, and other proper particulars, which record shall be admitted in evidence.

5. Every Order of the Privy Council under this Act shall be published, if it relates to England, in the "London Gazette," and if it relates to Scotland, in the "Edinburgh Gazette;" save that, where the Order affects only specified lands, the insertion in the "London" or "Edinburgh Gazette" (as the case may require) of a notice of the making of the Order shall be sufficient.

Any Order of the Privy Council under this Act shall be published by any Local Authority, to whom it is sent by the Privy Council for publication, in such manner as the Privy Council direct, and subject to, or in the absence of, any such direction, in such manner as the Local Authority think sufficient and proper to insure publicity.

6. The powers by this Act conferred on the Privy Council may be exercised by any two or more of the Lords and others of the Privy Council, and, as regards the making of Orders affecting only specified lands, may be exercised by the Lord President or one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

IRELAND.

7. The foregoing provisions of this Act shall apply to Ireland, as if Ireland were named therein instead of Great Britain, but subject to the provisions of this section:

(1). The powers conferred on the Privy Council shall be vested in the Lord-Lieutenant, or other chief governor or governors, of Ireland, acting by the advice of Her Majesty's Privy Council in Ireland.

(2). The Local Authorities shall be the boards of guardians of the several poor-law unions.

(3). The expenses incurred and compensation paid by a Local Authority shall be paid by the treasurer of the union out of union funds; that is to say, out of any money in his hands to the credit of the guardians of the Union, and if there is not sufficient money in his hands, then out of the money next received by him and placed to their credit.