

had always looked upon insect depredations precisely as they did other natural phenomena like drouth, storms and floods, fully convinced by ages of experience that nothing could be done to prevent them, and, therefore, they must be endured to the end. Entomological literature, however elementary and popular, they simply would not read. This was, generally speaking, the situation at the time when I was just beginning my entomological work among the farmers of Illinois.

We will now step over the intervening 25 years and look at the situation as it is to-day. It will be an obscure section of the country, indeed, if where there are serious insect depredations going on, we at the Department of Agriculture do not promptly receive a report of it through one or the other of several sources. These reports are received through letters addressed direct to either the Department or Bureau, and are coming each year with increasing frequency, through experiment stations, the press, and last, though not least, through members of Congress.

Perhaps nothing better illustrates the changed condition and rapid growth of agriculture as a science than the immense strides made by economic entomology as applied over and throughout the broad acres of the ordinary farmer. At the present time, instead of receiving a stereotyped reply to his applications for relief, when he applies as an individual, or for his neighbourhood, to the Department of Agriculture, either directly, or, as is becoming every day more frequent, through his representative in Congress, he is very often surprised when, within two or three days after the receipt of his complaint, there appears in his neighbourhood a young man who, in most cases, has grown up a farmer's son on the farm, and, besides this, has had a thorough university training, and, perhaps, is further equipped by having been engaged in the investigation of insects over a wide range of country, including, perhaps, no small number of the United States. Instead of receiving a letter which to him might, perhaps, so far as practical aid is concerned, have been written in a foreign language, he finds that his visitor can go about over his and his neighbours' farms with him and with a clear understanding of the crops cultivated can point out the work of insects and tell them in what manner they might have avoided these injuries and saved their money. He