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## The Wheat Crop and its Enemies.

The wheat crop this year has not only had, common with the other products of the farm, contend with an unusually backward and dry season, which under any circumstances would render a rather light crop almost inevitable, but has also yet to run the gauntlet of its numerous insect enemies. The wheat midge has been reared in various parts of the country in large numbers, either in the larva or in the perfect fly form, and unless some peculiar favoring circumstance should intervene, it is highly probable that the injury from this cause will be very considerable.

A few days ago, namely on the 20th of June, Charles Shaver, who resides on Dundas street, in Etobicoke township, near Islington village, brought us in some specimens of the larva of the Wheat Midge, which he had found in immense numbers on the surface of the ground in the fields where he had wheat last year, and which he also found in fallow, Indian Corn, potatoes, or in any other spring crop. His neighbours had found the same in similar situations and similar quantities, but always only in fields which had been planted with wheat last year. Having been informed about a week previously by a gentleman residing near the same locality, that he had also seen the matured fly in immense swarms flying over the wheat fields this season, and that he had been collecting at the time of having ever heard of the larva having been seen in such enormous

numbers in the ground in the manner described by Mr. Shaver at this season of the year, we were at first inclined to suppose that the larvæ found by him and his neighbours must be the produce of eggs laid by the perfect fly this season, although it was a puzzling question how they could have got into the situations in which they were found.

On further consideration, however, and after consulting works written on the subject, we arrived at the conclusion that these larvæ were the same that had been left upon the wheat fields after harvest last year, and that they had remained there ever since, till awakened into activity by the warm rains which fell about the 13th or 19th, when they had worked their way to the surface. The Secretary of the Board of Agriculture was induced to address a note to one of the city newspapers embodying this view, and asking the attention of farmers to the subject. He has received several communications in reference to this letter, which make it quite evident that his view was the correct one. In fact there could be no doubt about it when the habits of the insect are studied. The circumstance of the perfect fly having been seen in great multitudes in one locality as early as about the 12th or 15th of the month, of the truth of which statement we are quite assured, and the same insect, but still progressed no further than the larva state, being seen a week afterwards in the ground, in such immense numbers, in another locality only a few miles distant, must wa