

REPORT OF INVESTIGATIONS IN MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA,
AS ENTOMOLOGIST AND BOTANIST.

(MR. JAS. FLETCHER.)

OTTAWA, 1st September, 1895.

SIR,—I have the honour to report that, in accordance with instructions, I left Ottawa on June 22nd, and proceeded westward through Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and British Columbia to the Pacific coast. The object of my mission was primarily to investigate the occurrence or otherwise in British Columbia of the Codling Moth and San José Scale. With regard to the former, it was claimed by the officers of the Department of Agriculture in British Columbia that it did not occur in that province; but as it is extremely abundant and injurious in the Pacific States of the American Union, this immunity of British Columbia was a problem of great scientific interest, and one concerning which the observation and report of a scientific expert were deemed advisable.

Of the San José Scale undoubted specimens had been received at Ottawa for identification, with the statement that they had been collected in the Okanagan Valley. There was, however, room for doubt as to whether the insect still existed in British Columbian orchards. Owing to the extremely pernicious character of this pest, as shown by its injuries in the United States, definite information was much required, so that British Columbian fruit growers might be apprised of the danger of neglecting so serious an enemy, and advised as to the best steps to pursue should its presence be detected.

It is gratifying to be able to report favourably with regard to both of these subjects of my investigation. The keenest search possible in the time at my disposal, and much inquiry from those thought to be best informed, failed to detect either by their presence or by injuries committed that either the Codling Moth or the San José Scale existed in a living state in British Columbia. It cannot be denied with regard to the Codling Moth that this is a matter of much surprise and is quite inexplicable to me. As, however, it is apparently the case, it is a matter of much congratulation to the fruit growers of British Columbia, and shows the wisdom of the strict measures which are being enforced by the Provincial Board of Horticulture to prevent if possible the introduction of the pest from outside sources. There is little doubt that, with the increasing traffic with the United States and the other provinces of Canada, many of the pests of agriculture will in the course of time be introduced. Already many weeds not indigenous to the province have appeared in cultivated land, and have developed into aggressive enemies.

During the past season, I received specimens from the Fraser River country of the Eye-spotted Bud Moth; and during my expedition heard many complaints of the ravages of this insect, which before this year had not been reported from British Columbia.

Leaving Ottawa on June 22nd, I reached Nepigon at 7.40 p.m. the next day. I remained two days at this point examining the farin crops of the Hudson Bay Company and collecting specimens of insects and plants.