

the insidious pest. If a pack of wolves were to come down from the mountains and ravage the flock and herds of the community, carrying off and destroying one-tenth of the cattle and sheep, it would not be long before every man in the country who could fire a gun and ride a horse would be in hot haste to join in a fierce onslaught upon them. Why should there not be an equal effort and an equal determination to get rid of an insect enemy that causes the loss of just as great an amount of most valuable property? In the one case there is, to be sure, the instinctive love of the chase and all its attendant excitement, while in the other there is the humdrum adoption of some special date of ploughing, some particular variety of seed, some careful burning of stubble, some extra cleaning of grain,—perhaps some little expense, not for powder and shot, but for remedial applications.

There is another side, also, I am glad to learn, to the North-West Entomological Society. It is paying attention to practical Botany, and also to Geology. The latter, to the ears of most, conveys the word *gold*, and I need not, therefore, refer to the value of it,—but all I have said about the study of insects applies equally well to that of weeds. The one are as ubiquitous as the other, and it is quite evident that over the vast prairies of the North-West, with their rich soil and luxurious vegetation, weeds are going to prove as tough a problem as the worst of our insect foes. Here, too, all can do something—all can co-operate. No man should be permitted to let his neighbour's fields be sown with the seeds of weeds that he has been too lazy or too careless to cut down. But many weeds are blown for miles across the land and have to be dealt with in various ways. These are matters to be studied and objects upon which experiments must be tried,—and here, too, comes in the necessity of some education, some elementary information by means of which a noxious weed may be distinguished from a useful or a harmless plant.

I am writing from a long way off and to dwellers in a land that I have never seen, but in matters of science distance makes no difference. We are all brothers in search of truth. We are all at one in our desire to help each other in any way we can—to lessen the toil and cheer the labours of those who are preparing the way for a rich and prosperous community, a goodly province in the Empire of our Queen and the Confederacy of our Dominion.

ADDRESS BY DR. HENRY GEORGE, M.R.O.S., ENG., L.R.O.P.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, and fellow members of the Northwest Entomological Society, I am glad to greet you. As long as I have been in Alberta—some ten years—I have looked forward to this time, when men are ready to use both brains and eyes, and not merely till the ground and perform various other labors in these almost wild parts of the world.

I take it that the chief object of this Society is to enable the farmer to distinguish between his friends and enemies, as relating to his crops, grasses, domestic herds, &c. Birds, animals, insects, weeds, are all under this head; and it behoves us to help our Secretary in his praiseworthy endeavor to make us understand and learn how to distinguish between what we should destroy as vermin and what we should protect as beneficial to the agricultural interests.

I may say that the love of observing nature has been born in me, and when I came out here and heard a man called a "bug hunter" I was much insulted, as I had never before connected that obnoxious word with anything except the little insect that disturbs night's slumbers in some cases. But I might bring these remarks to an end as the Secretary has kindly asked me to pick out some animal or bird and give you my observations and readings on the same. I am going to give you a few words on the

POCKET GOPHER. (*G. bursarius*).

This animal is like the English mole in many respects, but differs in others. Like the mole it lives underground and throws up small heaps of fine earth, having "runs" under the ground. Its fur, both in texture and color, is very similar. It looks like a

large mouse digging, but that they live the gnawing mole has reg this is called which are ju mouth, so th tents. These they kill ma potatoes, car ground in th owls. I hav ways of catcl This is one o and do harm from the roo

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