

age Creek, which had been saved by spreading a swathe of straw across the middle of the field; then the whole family armed themselves with boughs, and forming line drove the grasshoppers before them into the straw. When evening came a match was applied, and in five minutes nothing was left of the invaders but their horny coverings, which, at the time of my visit in August, still littered the ground in millions."

THE LOCUSTS IN THE WESTERN STATES.

Throughout the Western States that lie beyond the Mississippi River, where last year fully one hundred thousand people were estimated to have been seriously affected by the plague of locusts—many being reduced to poverty and starvation—this year the actual suffering has been comparatively slight. From the official reports of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, we gather that the dreaded locust "seems to be perishing from the assaults of parasites; its demonstrations of destructive power were far less formidable than last year." In the early part of the season very serious apprehensions were felt as to the safety of the crops in many localities, but as the summer advanced it was found that though much injury was inflicted in particular places, there was no such wide-spread havoc as in the preceding year.

In the "Monthly Report" for May and June, for instance, it is stated that "The destructive locust, *Caloptenus spretus*, has recommenced its depredations west of the line of the Missouri, and in some counties to the east of that river. It was reported that they were hatching in immense numbers in five of the counties of Minnesota. In some cases they were burned in great numbers in piles of straw. In Missouri they were very destructive in the north-western part of Vernon County; in Platte they swept all the grain and grass crops; they were also a terrible scourge in five other counties. (All of these suffered severely last year—they lie along the western boundary of the State.) In Kansas they had eaten all the stacked tame-grass hay and all the old meadows, twenty-five per cent. of the wheat, and most of the growing corn-plants; in Marshall County they destroyed wheat, oats and gardens; Leavenworth records the most terrible visitation yet known—the popular dismay is indescribable. Similar reports come from seventeen other counties. In some villages the streets are covered with these insects. Fruit-trees have in many cases failed to bear, from the fact that they were last year deprived of all their foliage and young-wood growth by these pests. From some counties come bitter complaints of the falsehoods of newspaper writers and others, palliating or denying the real extent of the disasters. These false representations are made in the interest of speculative property-holders, who fear a depreciation of their investments. In a few counties the injuries have as yet been small, but all such places are yet liable to destructive visitation. The cotton-plant was especially relished by these insects. In Nebraska they had destroyed twenty per cent. of the small grain, and were still at work. In Colorado they were numerous and destructive in three counties."

In the *Prairie Farmer* of the 29th of May it is stated that "the reports from the grasshopper regions of Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska are somewhat conflicting, yet on the whole a little more cheerful from many localities than they were last week. From Sedalia, Missouri, comes an account of three deaths from starvation. At a meeting held at Jefferson City, it was stated that suffering in many parts of the State was imminent, and it was resolved that the Governor should appoint commissioners in every county of the State to solicit relief, and that collections for the sufferers should be taken up in all the churches on the Fast Day, June 3rd." This 'Fast Day' was appointed by proclamation of the Governor of the State of Missouri, as a day of fasting and prayer to Almighty God for deliverance from the plague of locusts, and was, on the whole, very religiously observed throughout the State.

The same paper quoted above relates further that the ravages still continue in the neighbourhood of St. Joseph. "The feeling regarding them varies with localities; some are despondent, while others think the damage will be light. The people of Nebraska generally are reported to be very hopeful; they believe that the entire corn crop at least will be saved. They have developed in patches, but are doing less harm than was anticipated."

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"They appear destruction. Abou without perceptibl counties, but were Iowa, Montgomery est injury being to souri they did ser month's report. " tobacco." In Tex: very serious amou stroyed; they were reported from six (thirteen counties.

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