

chain of road lakes, which present an almost insuperable obstacle to the passage of this insect; but we have vulnerable points along the counties above mentioned, where we are only separated from the adjacent State of Michigan by the River St. Clair. The beetle possesses considerable powers of flight, which enable it to make its way over moderate distances, so that the river presents no effectual barrier to its passage, and it has even been found that numbers survive after having been drifted twenty or thirty miles across a lake. From the entrance, then, to the St. Clair on Lake Huron and its outlet on Lake Erie, the passage of this insect must be guarded against, or else the whole country will be devastated in no long space of time, and the community will be exposed to a loss of several millions of dollars' worth of potatoes.

But how, it will be asked, can this pestilent Colorado beetle be kept off? It entered our country in small numbers last year, and will probably come in far greater numbers this year. What can we do to prevent it? The first thing to be done by all who cultivate land in the counties of Lambton, Kent and Essex, is to be very few potatoes yet, only enough to barely supply the wants of one's household. Next, do not plant any at all unless you are determined to fight the insect, without relaxing all through the season. To do this effectually you must not have too large a potato field, and this you must watch carefully, from the time the leaves appear until you gather in your crop. When the insect makes its appearance early in the season, make a few small heaps of potatoes here and there in your field the beetles will be attracted to these for food, and you can then easily kill them by going round every morning and crushing under foot all that you can find. This will prevent their laying their eggs and producing a fresh brood. Again, plant your potatoes, if possible, in a field surrounded by timber; or, if that is impracticable, surround it with a wide border of Indian corn. If all these means prove insufficient, then you will have to resort to the use of "Paris Green" which, being a preparation of arsenic, is a deadly poison. Be very careful then how you use it; never leave it for a moment within the reach of children or careless grown people. Mix it with eight or ten times as much flour, ashes, plaster, or slaked lime, and dust it over the affected plants through a coarse muslin bag or sieve attached to the end of a stick. Keep to the windward of it when at work, and apply it when the dew is on the foliage.

We trust that every one in those counties will adopt these precautions, and a so that all in the neighbouring counties will be on the watch as well. There is no saying how far east the beetle may get this year—one specimen was found at Stratford last summer—so let all be on the look out. As those on the western frontier who keep off the insect not only benefit themselves, but also the whole population of Canada we would suggest that a reward should be given by the Government of Ontario, or by the various municipalities, or by both, for all fields of potatoes that are kept free from the pest where it actually makes its appearance. Or perhaps a better plan would be for the reward to take the shape of so much a hundred for all authenticated specimens gathered in Canada, in the same manner as a price is set upon the head of the Plum Curculio by the Fruit Growers' Association.

Last year we made an additional suggestion, which we still consider of importance. It is that a

tract of country, some ten miles in width or more, should be marked off along the border line between the foot of Lake Huron and the head of Lake Erie, and that the culture of the potato should be absolutely forbidden throughout the whole tract during the prevalence of the pest in the neighbouring State of Michigan. We commend the suggestion to the Minister of Agriculture and all others interested in the matter.—*Globe*.

THE CROPS IN THE UNITED STATES.

The official report of the United States Department of Agriculture, under date May 1st, gives on the whole a very favorable report of the condition of the crops through the States, as far as it could be ascertained at that early date. The spring has been unusually early, and the growth of grain advanced two to four weeks beyond its accustomed status. There is no State in which winter-killing is not exceptional, and in several it is a most entirely unknown. In Maine there has been considerable loss from winter-killing during the variable weather of February and March. Vermont grains, too, have suffered somewhat from open winter. The reports are favorable from Massachusetts and Connecticut. No wheat is grown in Rhode Island, and indeed very little in New England. The warm autumn gave a strong growth in Western New York, and though the covering of snow was light the plants retained their vigor through the winter, and are in more than medium condition. Eight counties report "very good." Three-fourths of the returns from this State indicate merely an average prospect. Of fifteen counties reported in New Jersey, none present discouraging accounts, but three hint the prospect of an average, two estimate an advantage of ten per cent, three of twenty per cent, and one of twenty-five, while others return the crop, "better than for years and looking remarkably well." Forty counties in Pennsylvania send returns, of which only two represent an inferior prospect, and three-fourths report a more than average luxuriance. The wheat crop in Indiana is reported "remarkably fine." "though the fly has destroyed parts of fields. Wheat and rye look well in Delaware. Every return from Maryland is favorable in comparison with last year. The crop is generally more advanced than usual, and in one county the report states that "it never before within the recollection of the oldest inhabitants had so promising a look." Of thirty-six returns in Virginia, three are less favorable than usual, seventeen show great improvement and the remainder report a medium appearance. The reports from the Carolinas are favorable, with the exception of a few counties where wheat was partially winter-killed. In some portions of Alabama wheat is inferior, but in others it looks well. A very small area of wheat or rye is sown in Mississippi or Louisiana, except in the latter for winter pasture. What there is of it presents a uniformly promising appearance. In some counties in Texas, wheat has been greatly injured by drouth; in others the prospect is good. Not a county in Illinois reports a poor appearance of winter wheat or rye, and in most of them the report is that it "never looked better in thirty years." The Cook county correspondent reports no wheat sown in that county, in the following terms: "We had long since ceased to speculate in winter wheat and rye, as it is easily shown that every dollar we ever made in winter grain cost us