

small "jogs" and turns in them, and they cannot be said to be the shortest distance between two points, but their general direction is straight enough from the nests to the aphid colonies. They are quite smooth and free from blades of grass or other obstructions, but they are not very easy to trace as the long grass conceals them, and occasionally they disappear entirely in a tunnel a few inches long. In fine weather traffic on them is very active, and numerous parties of workers are continually running to and fro.

Before I regretfully tore one up in tracing it to the nest, thirteen feet of the longer road mentioned above was entirely subterranean, being tunnelled at a depth of about an inch under the sod. My brutal devastation of their work at first caused great excitement among the ants, but before I had left the ravaged scene, the workers had begun repairs in the most philosophic manner, and when I revisited the spot a week or two later, the road was all clear and smooth again. Indeed, their determination to "keep the line clear" seems to be as strong as it is in the most zealous railway superintendent. When traffic is brisk, a pinch of earth placed across the road as a barrier creates a great commotion. There is a tumultuous running back and forth and a climbing over the barrier and around it. But presently a single worker, who has recovered her equanimity sooner than the rest, is seen dislodging particles of the encumbering earth with her jaws and depositing them in the grass at the edge of the road. After a little she is joined by others, and in a comparatively short space of time the obstruction is removed and the road is clear again. Any cricket or grasshopper that blunders on to the highway is promptly attacked and quietly driven off by the menacing jaws of the ants.

THE NITROGEN COMPOUNDS IN RAIN AND SNOW.

Our readers may remember that we presented in the issue for October, 1908, an account of the interesting work carried on by the Chemical Division of the Dominion Experimental Farms in the determination of the fertilizing value of rain and snow. It was there stated that from the analysis of each fall of rain and snow it had been calculated that during the year ending February, 1908, 4.323 lbs. of nitrogen had been furnished to the soil per acre, and of this approximately 75 per cent. had been present in rain and 25 per cent. in the snow.