

country in the capacity of Accountant in the Library of Parliament.

On July 1st, 1887, Dr. Fletcher was appointed Entomologist and Botanist to the Dominion Experimental Farms and was transferred from the Library of Parliament to the Staff of the Farms. He was thus enabled to devote himself entirely to natural history and his work became the great pleasure of his life. For 21 years I was intimately associated with him from day to day and watched the development of his work with great interest. In his capacity of Dominion Entomologist he studied with much assiduity the many problems which presented themselves in reference to insect life, such as the life-histories of many insect pests which prey on the crops of the farmer and by their depredations often materially lessen his profits. He also studied closely the life-history and habits of the many parasitic species which feed upon and destroy the farmers' enemies, and thus render very substantial service. He also experimented with the means proposed for the destruction of the injurious species. The Entomological Division also prepared collections of both injurious and friendly species, showing them in all the different stages of their growth.

As Botanist he studied the value, as fodder plants, of such species of grasses and clovers as can be grown successfully in the different parts of the Dominion. He ascertained their relative value for the production of hay and recommended the most promising of them for general cultivation. These fodder plants were grown in plots adjoining the hedges at the Central Experimental Farm, where they could be conveniently shown to visitors and their advantages explained. He also studied the subjects of smut, rust and other parasitic fungi, especially such as are injurious to our valuable grain crops. He also devoted much attention to another class of enemies with which the farmer must wage war if he is to be successful. I refer to the weeds which infest his crops. These, if allowed to multiply, crowd out the useful plants he is growing, rob them of the moisture they need, also of much of the fertilizing material in the soil which would otherwise contribute to their nutriment.

In both these divisions of Dr. Fletcher's work the field was practically unlimited and in preparing his annual reports from the large mass of material available, the chief difficulty was to select the best and most useful. It was Dr. Fletcher's habit from the outset to endeavour to place his observations and conclusions before the public in the plainest possible language. On this point in one of his earliest reports he says: "In preparing the present report I have endeavored to make it useful to the agriculturist, all unnecessary technicalities have been eliminated, and only