

rapidity. The eggs are laid in the ground around the bases of the trees. An area of at least fifty square miles of forest was completely defoliated by these insects during that and the previous year.

*Melanoplus spretus*.—The Rocky Mountain or Migratory Locust. This is the insect which is generally referred to as the destructive locust of North America, and has caused more injury during the past twenty years than any dozen of the other species combined. It is this species which we most fear, on account of its migratory habits—so marked is this trait that swarms hatching on the Saskatchewan have been traced to the Gulf of Mexico in one season. Its habits have been so frequently described that further mention is unnecessary. Suffice it to say that at the present time it is again decidedly on the increase along our northern boundary. During the present year reports of its injury were received from Minnesota, North Dakota and Manitoba, by the Department of Agriculture, and upon investigation I found these reports to be only too true. In Minnesota and Dakota the authorities, ably assisted by the efforts of settlers, have been carrying on a vigorous warfare with marked results, which will doubtless save their crops from devastation next season.

*Melanoplus atlantis*, Riley. The Lesser Migratory Locust.

This locust, which frequently becomes very injurious on account of its excessive increase, is somewhat smaller than the Rocky Mountain species. It is also migratory in its habits, but to a much less degree than is *spretus*. In its distribution this insect is much more widely spread than the preceding—being a common one in almost all parts of our country from the Mexican boundary to the 53rd degree of north latitude, and even beyond in some parts of the country. It is the species which most frequently does the locust injury in the New England States, much of that in our Northern States, and some of that in the extreme north-west. It has also been known to become injurious even in the Middle and Southern States. In its distribution *atlantis* appears to be more partial to hilly or mountainous country, and especially is this noticeable in reference to its appearance in destructive numbers. It also seems to prefer wooded or mixed country to the open prairie or plains.

As would naturally be expected from its wide distribution, this particular locust presents some variation in its size, colour, and to some extent also, its structure. At any rate, there appear to be three well-marked forms of the species to be met with within the confines of North America.