

EUROPEAN CORN-BORER

Something About a New and Most Undesirable Pest.

Found This Summer in Many Western Ontario Counties — Description and Life History — Methods of Control.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

It is always a matter of concern when a new pest is introduced into a country and especially when that insect attacks an important crop such as corn. In August the European Corn-borer—a European insect—was discovered in Ontario and extensive scouting by entomologists revealed the unpleasant fact that it was distributed over about three thousand square miles, being found in the counties of Welland, Haldimand, Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford, Kent and Huron. In some of these counties only small areas here and there seem to be infested, but in others the infestation is much more extensive. The worst infestation is in Elgin County, between St. Thomas and Fort Stanley where several corn-fields showed from 50 to 90 per cent of all the plants to have been attacked. There is no doubt that the insect could not be so widely distributed or abundant unless it had been here for several years. It seems strange that no corn-grower reported it, but the explanation doubtless is that they thought it was some old pest that had become abundant for a year or two and would soon pass away or become of no importance.

It is impossible at this stage to say how great a menace the insect will be; for no one knows, not even the best informed entomologists. Judging, however, from what we have seen this fall it cannot be exterminated and will gradually spread throughout the province and prove a greater menace than any other corn insect of the province. Yet, there is very little doubt that by the joint cooperation of the Dominion and Provincial Entomologists, together with entomologists of the United States (for the insect occurs in New York and Massachusetts), a practicable method of control will be discovered and corn continue to be as successfully grown in the future as in the past.

It may be of interest to know that ever since the insect has been discovered vigorous efforts have been made by the Provincial and Dominion Departments of Agriculture, through their entomologists, to find out everything they could about it by scouting expeditions throughout the southern western part of the province and by studying the insect in the field. They have also brought the Agricultural Representatives to see its work and discussed with them methods of control. Plans are moreover on foot for a very careful study of the insect by both Departments next year, including methods of control. Valuable information of any kind is soon as discovered will, of course, be furnished to the press so as to be available to every farmer.

Brief Description and Life History of the Insect.

The borer, full grown, is a moderately stout caterpillar about one inch long, pale brownish to white in color on the upper surface and white beneath, with a brown head and several brown spots on each segment of the body. These spots are not very conspicuous to the naked eye but can be seen easily with a hand lens. The winter is passed in the larval stage in burrows inside corn-stalks or cobs, and sometimes in weeds. In the spring the larvae feed to a slight extent and then pupate in their burrows. In June the moths begin to appear and lay their eggs in small white clusters on the leaves. The larvae hatch from these eggs for a time on the leaves and then develop tassels and then begin to bore into the stalks and ears, making holes and tunnels in the former and eating the kernels in the latter. As the cold weather approaches the larvae all make comfortable burrows for themselves in the stalks or inside the cobs or in weeds. They are only one brood a year in Ontario as far as is known.

Nature of the Injury.

Injury is done chiefly by the larvae burrowing into the cobs and causing them to break over with the wind; tassels especially break over easily. A further injury is due to larvae feeding upon the kernels in the ears and by disease, especially in wet, warm weather, entering through the holes, both in ears and stalks, and causing rot. Although all kinds of corn are attacked, table and flint varieties suffer most and dent least.

Methods of Control.

The methods of control that naturally suggest themselves are as follows:

1. Sow dent corn unless there is some special reason for preferring flint.
2. Cultivate well in the early season to keep down weeds so that these may not harbor the pest.
3. If you have not a silo build one. You can because all borers in corn put into the silo are killed.
4. Cut the corn just as low as possible for otherwise many borers will be left in the stubble, but if cut very low over 90 per cent will be taken into the silo.
5. Put the corn into the silo as soon as possible after cutting to prevent borers coming out of the cut stalks and entering the stubble.
6. If there is no silo and the borers are present it will be necessary to burn the stalks and cobs or to run them through a shredder to kill all borers present.

In conclusion we request any person outside of the counties referred to above, on finding a borer in his corn, to put it in a tin box and send it either to Mr. Arthur Gibson, Dominion Entomologist, Ottawa, or to L. Casner, Provincial Entomologist, G. A. College, Guelph. This will help us in our work against the pest.

— L. Casner, O. A. College, Guelph.

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ASK BETTER HIGHWAY SIMCOE TO JARVIS

Norfolk Delegation Appointed to See Officials of Department

Simcoe, Jan. 24.—Farmers and business men held a meeting here to-night, when a committee was appointed to go to Toronto and meet officers of the Ontario highway department to get a better road from Simcoe to Jarvis. Geo. D. Sewell and Joseph Cridland, M.P.'s for North and South Norfolk, were present and discussed the situation at some length.

The distance from Simcoe to Jarvis is 12 miles. Five miles of this road is clay, and approximately six months in the year it is impassable. The road is a barrier to both North and South Norfolk, as the remainder of the road is in good shape.

A farmer friend dropped into the office of an Ontario weekly newspaper the other day and remarked that the auction sales which were advertised in the newspapers were much better attended than those where no such publicity was given. "The object for having an auction sale," he said, "is to sell as many articles as at high prices as possible and it stands to reason that the larger the crowd the greater the competition and the more the articles bring under the hammer, and probably 100 persons will read the list of articles in the paper for one who reads the bills. Certainly one should insert the sale in the paper. It does not need any argument and the money is well spent if it only attracts one extra buyer."

ST. PAUL'S AND COAL.

How Cathedral Was Paid for From Black Product of Newcastle.

The intimate connection between coal and the Cathedral of St. Paul's may not be widely known, but it is a fact that the present cathedral was practically built on coal, or, to speak more correctly, on the proceeds of the sale of coal.

The original cathedral is said to have been formed about the year 664 and to have been entirely demolished by the fire in the year 1087. The next church was built of stone obtained from Normandy and was finished in the year 1222. It was then 690 feet in length, 130 feet in breadth, and the steeple reached up to 520 feet from the ground. In 1314 the cross on the top fell, and in February, 1414, the steeple also came to harm. Again, on June 4, 1561, the steeple and roof were consumed by fire. The roof was repaired with timber framed in Yorkshire and brought to London by sea, the repairs being finished in 1566. The steeple was not again set up, and, when the civil wars came on, the body of the church was used as a stable for the Horse Guards, although a weekly lecture was given by a divine in the choir.

So it stood, this great Gothic building, until the year 1666, when it was almost completely destroyed during the great fire of London.

Then Sir Christopher Wren was called upon to build a new edifice, and, although the King gave a yearly grant of £1,000 and between £60,000 and £70,000 was obtained from benevolences, this was not nearly enough to complete the great work. An act of Parliament was therefore passed laying a duty of 2s. London for seven years from 1670 to 1677, and a duty of 3s. a chaldron for the next ten years, from 1677 to 1687. Of this sum three-fourths was to be expended upon rebuilding the London churches, and one-fourth of the sum devoted to the churches of London was to be expended on the rebuilding of St. Paul's. The clearing away of the old structure took a considerable time, and the foundation stone of the new one, the present church, was not laid until June 21, 1675. The chief mason, with the suitable name of Mr. Stone, saw that it was well and truly laid.

Then, from 1687 to 1700, the coal duty was again enacted, at the rate of 18d. a chaldron, of which all except one-fifth was devoted to the cathedral; and again from 1700 to 1708 the same tax, at the rate of 1s. a chaldron, was imposed for the same purpose. Lastly, from 1708 to 1718, when the edifice was completed, the tax was raised to 2s., and the total amount expended is believed to have been between £700,000 and £800,000. Thus, with a length of 500 feet, an average breadth of 200 feet, and a height of 340 feet, the great church on Ludgate Hill was built of white Portland stone from the proceeds of the black coal of Newcastle, and monolith of nations. Three kings—Charles II., James II. and William III.—and one queen, Anne, reigned during the progress of its building. Westminster Abbey may be thought to be more beautiful and more full of historic incident, but the abbey is not in London proper. It is the ancient city of London which has, from the early times, been the birthplace of English trade and enterprise as it is to-day, and St. Paul's Cathedral is its greatest building. — Christian Science-Monitor.

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EDGAR MACHELL

The Old Veteran, JARVIS

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DEAD TOWN IS ALWAYS SHUNNED

Community With Such a Reputation Suffers as From a Pestilence.

RESTS WITH THE CITIZENS

People Can Create and Maintain Prosperity If They Will Keep Their Money at Home in Circulation.

When a town is overgrown and prosperous, local business is good, real estate values are high and stable, labor is in demand and wages are good, the streets are well lighted, the residents and their property are protected from robbery and fire and good schools are maintained for the education of the children. When a town is dead, there is little money in circulation, store buildings stand empty with "For Sale" signs hanging on the front door, there is little employment for the laboring man, the streets are dark, the schools are closed.

What sort of town do you want to live in? There is only one answer to that question. You want to live in the live town and enjoy all the good things that come to the residents of such a community.

Answer Easily Found.

The only question then is as to how these prosperous conditions can be created or maintained and it is the easiest thing in the world to find the answer to that question.

If the people of a community will keep their money at home and keep it in circulation among themselves, they need have no fear of ever being out of money. If the people will patronize their own business men instead of sending their dollars to the mail order houses, the prosperity of the community will take care of itself.

The local stores, to a very large extent, make every town. The taxes paid by the business men of the community are the principal support of the schools and public institutions. It is the taxes paid by the storekeepers, to a large extent, that make possible the public improvements, the fire protection, the street lighting and the many other things which make a town worth living in. The mail order house does not pay any taxes in the town from which it gets its money. It does not help to support the schools or the churches. It does not help light the streets or maintain the fire department houses. It is the aim of the mail order houses to drive small town merchants out of business, so that the people will be compelled to send to the cities for their merchandise and they are spending thousands of dollars every month to accomplish this purpose. If they should succeed, who would pay the taxes that are now paid by the local merchants? It's a certainty that the mail order house would not pay them.

Issue Is Clear Cut.

Every dollar spent at home helps to make the town a live one. Every dollar sent away from home to the mail order house helps to make the town a dead one.

The issue is a clear-cut one and is squarely up to every resident of the community, whether a resident of the town itself or of the country surrounding it. The man who does not care whether he lives in a live or a dead town, if there is such a man, need waste no thought on the subject, but the man who wants to live in a live town cannot get away from it. It is up to him to make his town a live one or a dead one.

In the Line of Meats

You cannot beat the OLD VETERAN SHOP. Everything I have in stock is "proven best by every test." I invite your patronage with the assurance that you will be satisfied. Carry a good line of all vegetables in season.

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HERBERT PEACOCK, Implements

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