

COPY.

MINETY HOUSE, MINETY, MALMESBURY.

26th August, 1900.

Sir,

I beg you will allow me to call your attention to the following. My Manager in St Kitts writes "I have employed the children to catch grasshoppers which are so destructive to the peas, paying 5d. per 1,000. Found grasshoppers too troublesome to count, so fell on the plan to weigh them, it takes about 3 oz. to the 100". According to that I find each grasshopper weighs 2 drams but as each eats 3 or 4 times its own weight per day, each grasshopper eats about 1/3 of an ounce; therefore 1,000 would eat about 333 oz. or say roughly 20 lbs. per day.

As the peas are used for manure, being ploughed in, the loss must be enormous.

Could not the Government issue instructions as they do in India for snakes, &c., and other countries for Locusts, that they will pay 5d. for every 30 oz. of grasshoppers.

These grasshoppers no doubt breed on the estates that have fallen out of cultivation, and thus add another burden to those Estates which have up to the present time managed to keep their heads above water.

Trusting Sir that you may consider this matter worthy of your consideration and that steps may at once be taken by the Government to eradicate this pest.

I have &c.,

(sd). H.W. ESTRIDGE of Estridge's St.  
Kitts.

P.S. I may remark that when in Bechuanaland I suggested to the Government to pay for every Queen White Ant this was carried out after I left the country.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, M.P.

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