

October, especially if deprived of food, become greatly weakened before frost and are killed before the warm weather of spring arrives. To be specific, Professor Hunter says that out of 116 weevils which became full-grown about November 15 only 1 managed to live through the winter; while out of 240 weevils that became adults about the middle of December, 38 passed the winter successfully. It is evident, then, that any measure whereby the boll weevils may be prevented from maturing late will be of great advantage, in that it will greatly reduce the number of weevils able to pass the winter successfully. As we have shown in our discussion of the rate of increase of this insect, the number of weevils in a cotton patch in the spring determines largely whether any cotton will be made after the first of August.

From what has just been said in the two preceding para-

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graphs, it is evident that the most important means of preventing injury by the boll weevil is to prevent the full-grown ones from passing over the winter. Every female weevil we can kill during the fall and winter means hundreds less in our cotton fields the following summer. The best method of accomplishing this is to plow up and burn all of our cotton stalks in the fall about two weeks before the first hard frost. In the first place, this will deprive the last full grown ones (and these are the only ones, as we have just shown, that winter over) of food for that interval, and thereby weaken them so that they will not be able to pass the winter. In the second place, hundreds of the small white grubs found in the squares and bolls at this time and which, if left unmolested, will develop into weevils to pass the winter, will be killed by this process. In the third place, if the work is well done, a great majority of the adult weevil present in the field will be destroyed.

The facts concerning the increase of the weevil and regarding the individuals that winter over are true. They have been obtained and substantiated by a long series of observations conducted by persistent, trained, and thoroughly reliable entomologists. Admitting the facts to be true, then it seems to me, that the argument regarding the benefit to be obtained by the fall destruction of cotton stalks is incontrovertible. Then, why not destroy them, and do it now? The responsibility rests upon the cotton grower.

Perhaps the best way to destroy the stalks is to plow them out with a two-horse turning plow and then rake them up into piles and burn them just as soon as they are dry enough. It is important to rake them up while they are green in order that the leaves may remain to aid in burning the stalks.

(Completed in next issue)

(The article in next issue will tell good varieties of cotton to plant in boll weevil sections, the kind of cultivation required, and why fall breaking should be done and to a depth of six inches. If the land is stiff and inclined to hold water, plow in beds eight feet wide.)

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