

I have noticed for the first time in my recollection a black aphid attacking the Rhubarb, Cucumber and also one on the Holly. While up Mount Cheam I again noted a black aphid present in large numbers. I am unable to say to what species any of these aphids belong. The green aphid was not very troublesome this year, but the Woolly Aphid was very prevalent.

I have noted further that the spittle insects, Cercopidae, caused a great deal of annoyance to flower gardens here in Vancouver.

I trust these few remarks will be of interest.

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#### REPORT FROM KOOTENAY DISTRICT.

The season just closed has been fruitful in demonstrating that at least one insect which is usually considered a bad pest and one that it is necessary to destroy by spraying, can at least prove a blessing in disguise. I refer in this case to the Black Cherry Aphid, *Myzus cerasi*. This insect made its appearance in large numbers at the commencement of July and as usual attacked the tips of the sweet cherries. So bad was the infestation that in some cases the fruit required washing before being marketable, as the brood had spread all over the trees. The main brood was, as previously stated, securely placed in the curled up leaves at the tips of the young shoots. Here they remained for over a month, and at the end of that time died. The foliage all turned black, greatly disfiguring the trees. Examination of the young shoots revealed the fact, that but few of the shoots were killed, and that the infestation had resulted in retarding the excessive growth which it might have been necessary to remove by pruning. The aphid had most effectually checked the excessive growth and had left the buds on the season's growth in fine healthy condition. No summer pruning could have so markedly improved the trees as did this aphid infestation. I must not, however, be quoted as an advocate of the propagation of this insect, to do the work which is required in summer pruning, but I only cite this as an instance where out of evil good may come.

The white maggots attacking the roots of the cauliflower in the early spring months were the cause of great loss to the market gardener. During June and early July we had a remarkable infestation of cutworms several varieties were greatly in evidence, but the most common were the larvae of *Mamestra canadensis*. These not only attacked the

growing vegetables, completely destroying them, but they also attacked the young shoots of young apple trees, in some cases, that came under my observation in a newly planted block of trees, entirely denuding the trees of all foliage and cutting off the tips of the young shoots. I quite expected to see a large brood of these insects emerge after the pupal stage, but for some reason I cannot account for, few of them ever emerged as imagoes. I was too busy at the time to make a collection of the larvae, so I cannot give any details of the probable causes which led to their destruction.

The season just passed was remarkable for immense swarms of *Vanessa californica*. These insects, though not so numerous as in the year 1891, were everywhere in evidence and a large number are now hibernating.

I received several reports of the devastation of Tamarac and Pine trees by the larva of *Neophasia menapia*, but these were entirely local in occurrence and probably did but little permanent damage.

I was much interested in receiving a box containing some specimens of the wood tick. The local form *Dermacenter venustus* is always fairly common, but those to which I previously referred are from a district in the southern boundary of the Province. I have heard, on various occasions, that the ticks in this district caused intense irritation by their bites, and that those bitten by them often experienced great suffering from the pimples and blotches which showed on their skin after being attacked by this animal, and there is one case on record where a child was supposedly killed from this cause. The specimens are smaller than those found here, and though very similar to *D. venustus*, are, I think, a different species. I have not had time to go over the specimens and sort them out for further identification, but that will be eventually done and the authorities can decide as to the merits of the species.

My regrets are that I have little of interest in the way of captures to record; true I have secured duplicates of one or two noctuids that previously stood as undescribed uniques, but I was fortunate in securing a topotype of *Eupithecia agnesata* Taylor, the species having been named by Mr. Taylor from an unique. The type is now in my collection.

During last winter I submitted specimens of *Colias*, including *philodice*, *eurytheme*, *eryphile* and *Kootenai*, to Mr. Bean, who was a great collector and breeder of this genus when located at Banff, Alta. This comparison was undertaken to secure his views of the validity of a variety of *Colias* that I have tentatively named *Kootenai*. Mr. Bean's views are that this variety should be merged with *eryphile*, but he is not prepared to say just where *philodice* begins. The specimens were later sent to the Montreal Entomological Society for study and from this source I am credited with the naming of a new species and the ex-

pression of the opinion that I was fully justified in adding to the already long list of varieties of this genus.

I regret that another butterfly to which I applied a tentative name, *Lycene quesnellii*, still remains in my cabinet represented by two worn specimens, but I trust that by the assistance of some of the members of the B. C. Entomological Society I may yet secure a large series of this butterfly from its local habitat, that of Au Bah Lake, Quesnelle. Any of our members taking this Blue in that locality will confer a great favor by submitting them to me for examination.

I extremely regret that I am unable to be present to read these rambling notes, but wish to express my best wishes for the success of the British Columbia Entomological Society.

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## INSECTS OF THE YEAR IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

This is a very comprehensive title and a large order. I hope I shall not be expected to deal with all the insects of the year in British Columbia. I presume that the thought in the mind of the party who arranged the programme was that I would be expected to deal with destructive or noxious insects.

Even if it were contemplated that I would deal with all the destructive insects of the year, the subject would be much too large to be dealt with in the time allotted. I see that there are seven other subjects to be dealt with, and each in turn must receive a fair share of the time at our disposal. I will, therefore, confine myself to a few of the most destructive insects with which we have to deal in this Province.

I may say that we have always had them with us, and mankind has had from the earliest history of civilization to suffer more or less from the destruction of insect pests, which prey on fruit, vegetables and grain. It is the common experience of all mankind since the Creation.

We have evidence of the existence of noxious insects even in geological times. Dr. Dawson, our own Canadian Geologist, has abundantly demonstrated this fact. In the early history of Egypt and Palestine it has been shown that the inhabitants of those countries suffered a great deal more from the depredation of insect pests than we are suffering to-day, although I am bound to admit that it is the experience of economic entomologists the world over that there is rapid increase in the number of insects that afflict the agriculturist, horticulturist and gardener.