



GEORGE O. DAY, F. E. S.
President, Entomological Society of British Columbia, 1913-1915

BRITISH COLUMBIA ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

PROCEEDINGS, 1916

The Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of British Columbia was held on March 11th, 1916, in the Provincial Museum, Victoria, B.C.

Owing to the absence through illness of the President, Mr. G. O. Day, of Duncan, the chair was occupied by the Vice-President, Mr. E. H. Blackmore, who called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

The report of the Secretary-Treasurer, showing the continued satisfactory progress of the Society and its healthy financial condition, was moved and adopted.

Seventeen papers were read, including six on systematic subjects and eight of economic importance. The economic papers were printed in Bulletin No. 7 (Economic Series), while the chief of the systematic papers are published in this present Bulletin No. 8 (Systematic Series).

At the close of the day's proceedings the election of officers for the year 1916 was proceeded with, and resulted as follows:

Hon. President—F. Kermode, Provincial Museum, Victoria, B.C.

President—E. H. Blackmore, Victoria, B.C.

Vice-President (Coast)—R. S. Sherman, Vancouver, B.C.

Vice-President (Interior)—L. E. Taylor, F.Z.S., Vernon, B.C.

Secretary-Treasurer—R. C. Treherne, B.S.A., Agassiz, B.C.

Assistant Secretary—Williams Hugh, Victoria, B.C.

Advisory Board—E. M. Anderson, Victoria, B.C., Tom Wilson, Vancouver, B.C., in addition to the officers above mentioned.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

By G. O. Day, F.E.S., Duncan, B.C.

The shadow of the dreadful war in which the Empire is engaged is still over us. The past year has been filled with anxiety and gloom. Almost all of us have friends or relations who have been or are taking part in the terrible strife; and I think I am expressing the general feeling when I state there has been a sense of suspense and unrest and of dread as to what each day might bring forth. Is it indeed to be wondered at, therefore, if people have felt too uneasy over the stupendous struggle in Europe to give full-hearted attention to the special subject our Society is interested in? I rather think it is a matter for congratulation that we have done so well, especially in the programme provided for today, in the matter of papers.

The awfulness of war has been brought very closely home to us by the death of one of our members—Capt. R. V. Harvey. He was wounded and taken prisoner at Festubert in April last, and subsequently died in Germany from his wounds. Though of late years he had not done much active work in Entomology, he it was who was mainly instrumental in starting the B.C. Entomological Society in 1902; and from the quarterly bulletins issued during the years 1906-07-08 (copies of which are preserved in our library), we have evidence of what an energetic Secretary and enthusiastic entomologist he was at that time.

I would like to express our appreciation of the sacrifice of his life in the cause of the Empire and our sense of the loss the Society has sustained by his death.

It is with much regret that I have to refer to the losses by death of two other members of the Society. These are Mr. T. Cunningham (quite recently) and Mr. E. H. Robinson (last year). Mr. Robinson was an authority on Honey Bees. He attended our Annual Meeting two years ago and gave us a talk about those insects—with particular reference to the new disease affecting them.

Mr. Cunningham was a keen supporter of our Society, chiefly, of course, on the economic side. Those who knew him personally must admire his staunch character and appreciate the whole-hearted devotion in which he carried out his duties as Fruit Inspector for the Province.

In considering a general review of Entomology during the past year, very few important events have come under my observation.

The meeting of the International Congress of Entomology, which was due to be held in 1915, did not—obviously could not—take place.

Our parent Society, the Entomological Society of Ontario, published during the year a most satisfactory report containing interesting papers and addresses. In the Presidential address by Dr. Hewitt particular

mention is made of the gratifying development of the British Columbia Branch of the Society. A reference to the list of members certainly gives us cause to be proud of our position—numerically at all events—for the Province of British Columbia furnishes 98 members out of a total of 203 for the whole of Canada; that is, nearly half the number.

Our neighbours across the line, being not so much affected by war conditions as ourselves, held, as you know, a monster Exposition at San Francisco during the summer. The Entomological Society of America took advantage of this event to hold a Convention there, which entomologists from all over the United States and some from Canada attended. The arrangements were on a most liberal scale, and I understand that the affair was most successful and enjoyable.

You will have seen from Bulletin No. 7, which has recently been published, that our Society's summer meeting at Kelowna passed off well.

The interest shown by the attendance, and by the papers given, is evidence that your Committee are wise in holding such meetings in the eastern district of the Province, and I trust we shall be able to continue them.

It is hardly necessary for me to emphasise the fact that our Society is proving the vehicle of much useful information to fruit growers and agriculturists, both by the presentation at our meetings of papers and discussions dealing with subjects of economic entomology and by the printing of such information in the Proceedings of the Society. We, as a Society, are doing our part in providing this information for reference, and it is up to the public generally to take advantage of our publications and also to attend our meetings.

In the matter of the issue of our Proceedings for the past year, we are greatly indebted to the Provincial Department of Agriculture for printing No. 7, and to the authorities of the Provincial Museum for undertaking the printing of No. 6. I think you will agree with me that the work has been done in a most admirable manner—a result extremely gratifying to the executive of our Society. It will be my pleasing duty to propose a vote of thanks to the proper quarters, but I feel that a mere vote of thanks feebly expresses our full appreciation of the benefits received.

You will, no doubt, have noticed that most of the papers given in the bulletins relate to subjects of an economic nature.

This is as it should be, for applied entomology is assuming more and more importance in the eyes of fruit growers and farmers.

The extent of damage done by insects is being increasingly recognized the more the matter is looked into. At the same time, though

there is plenty of literature covering the commonest pests and the remedies for their control, a great many people do not seem to take the trouble to read particulars of the life histories already worked out. They seem to fight shy of printed descriptions in books and pamphlets, as being too dry and technical, and very often they are too sceptical to try the remedies recommended.

The United States, which, I suppose, leads the world in the amount of money spent on combating insect pests and the publication of literature in connection with insect pests for the use and benefit of agriculturists, have, I believe, found the same difficulty in impressing the general run of farmers and of inducing them to take advantage of the information given. I have seen it stated somewhere, that the United States Entomological Department is trying to introduce the subject into the newspapers, where probably the pabulum will be taken in as a matter of daily reading. This seems to me to be an excellent plan, and worthy of being adopted in Canada or elsewhere.

While recognizing the importance of applied entomology, I would not like our Society to lose sight of the systematic side.

There is a vast amount of work to be done. I think we ought to make an effort to continue the lists given by the late Mr. Harvey in the bulletins of the Society for 1906-07-08, for the orders Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, Diptera and Odonata. It is only in the order Lepidoptera that a serious attempt at a complete list for British Columbia has been made. This list, published in 1906, has been most valuable, but it needs revising and bringing up to date.

It would be a useful work if we could collect under one cover all the records for our Province scattered through the pages of the various publications. Besides the lists I have mentioned as printed in our former bulletins, there are numerous records in the Canadian Entomologist, Reports of the Entomological Society of Ontario, etc., where they are hidden and unhandy. If we did this, the only difficulty, to my mind, would be to find someone to undertake the revisal of the records in the more obscure orders.

Considering the very little work that has been done in all the Orders other than Lepidoptera and Coleoptera, it is not creditable for the insect lovers of this Province to allow such a state of things to exist; and I sincerely trust that some of us will look beyond the amassing of a private collection of insects in comparatively popular orders and will take up the study of neglected orders, instead or in addition. It appears to be impracticable at present for the Society to think of possessing collections of its own, but at least we could publish, in handy form, information on the species of insects in the orders I have mentioned, occurring in the district. I earnestly put this matter before our members, and sincerely trust that some of us will take the matter into serious consideration.