

AN APPRECIATION

By A. F. Winn, President of the Ontario Entomological Society.

Mr. President and Members of the B.C. Entomological Society :

Thanks to the courtesy of your Secretary, I have the pleasure of saying a few words at this meeting.

I need scarcely say how much I wish it were possible to temporarily acquire the fabled seven-leagued boots and leave home overnight so as to be with you in person at this meeting, but even if I did, it would not be a record for a Canadian meeting of Entomologists. We were delighted to have at the November meeting both your Secretary and Mr. Tom Wilson, and felt the magnetic influence of an Entomological meeting was indeed strong to bring two enthusiasts over 2,800 miles, when in walked Mr. C. P. Lounsbury, of Pretoria, the Government Entomologist of the Union of South Africa, who also greatly helped in making the meeting the success it was.

I wish to express to you the greetings of the Parent Society, and also to say a few words of appreciation of the work you have done and are doing for Entomology in Canada. The hope has often been expressed that the time would come when our Society would have a chain of branches extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Today this has been accomplished, and the men who have brought it about are well known to you. One is your Secretary, who has got together such a lot of enthusiasts in your Province, that he tells me there are not enough copies of the Canadian Entomologist printed to go around; the other is Prof. Brittain, who carried the ideas he had formed in British Columbia straight across the continent, and on his arrival at Truro, Nova Scotia, at once formed an active branch in the Maritime Provinces. In Montreal, Toronto and Guelph, the branches meet regularly, and we are glad to learn that one is likely to be formed at Saskatoon.

The life history of an Entomological Society has been compared with that of an insect. It is usually started by a few kindred spirits in a very small way, making their presence noticed no more than the eggs of a butterfly, then, like a caterpillar, it begins to grow and do things; it changes its skin, adapting itself to changing conditions from time to time, it wanders abroad, it may have to rest occasionally or take refuge in dark days, and apparently not make much progress, but it is only temporarily held back, and ultimately develops its full growth. This covers a time, like the present, which may be considered to resemble the pupal period, when progress is being made rapidly, but perhaps not so noticeably, although it must be remembered that pupae are often decidedly active, and then comes the inago. What our final stage will be, remains for ourselves to show, for no other country can boast of an Entomological Society having branches extending over such a wide

area. The charter of our Society is made out on the broadest possible lines, and there is nothing Government about it, except the name, and we cannot feel grateful enough to the Ontario Department of Agriculture for having fostered us from the beginning, though they realize that they never made an investment that has paid them so well, as the annual grant they have given us.

It has been the aim of the Parent Society during all the years when the headquarters were at London, Ont., and the more recent ones at Guelph, to make the members at a distance feel they had the same privileges as those residing in their city, and many have been the suggestions and offers made to bring about closer relationships between the branches and widely separated individual members.

Glancing at the list of contributors to Vol. 47, it will be seen that out of 61 names, 20 are Canadians, a little less than one-third. Can't we do better than this, and make Vol. 48 show at least 50 per cent.? We cannot all write technical papers, fortunately perhaps, but the Editor would welcome contributions to the "popular and practical" column, and notes on capture of unusual specimens or observations of their habits.

Our forthcoming annual Report should show a series of contributions representing the whole Dominion, and we must keep this up—a few more pages can easily be added if required to publish our contribution towards the next meeting. These two publications are surely together worth the cost of membership, but to add to a good thing your Branch has outshone all the others by issuing a valuable series of "Bulletins" and distributing them to us gratis. We look forward to receiving further bulletins from time to time. They will prove more and more valuable as the series grows; and if I may suggest it, there should be a reserve stock kept somewhere, from which back numbers can be supplied at a price that will pay for the trouble and a little more. Hints have also reached us that lists of British Columbia Insects are being prepared and old ones revised, and this is another indication of the extent of your activities. One thing I omitted to mention regarding the Annual Report is the "Entomological Record," conducted by Mr. Arthur Gibson. This has been a feature since 1901, and last year's list is the largest one we have ever had. One object the late Dr. Fletcher had when he started it, was to bring us more closely in touch with one another's work, and into association of specialists capable of helping us out of difficulties.

Your Secretary not only represented you at our November meeting, but also kindly visited us in Montreal at our February monthly meeting, and told us much, but not everything, about the progress of Entomology in British Columbia, and we know he can and will tell you our side of the story, for no one could do it better. Our message therefore is not

only one of pleasure and pride in what you have accomplished, but a plea for hearty co-operation. Those of us who see our English contemporary the London "Entomologist," which is just one year older than its Canadian namesake, will recall the quotation that appears on its brilliant orange cover every month, and it can easily be memorized by all—

"By mutual confidence and mutual aid,
Great deeds are done and great discoveries made."

There is one other matter that should not be omitted, namely, that a new and stronger tie than any mentioned above is binding us closer together. Our members in every Province have answered the call of King and Country to fight side by side, as true men of science, against a power which has made science only a tool for achieving deeds of unthinkable barbarity. In numbers that have joined the colours, the British Columbia Branch stands foremost, but all will do their share. On the same day that I was reading an account of my friend Mr. H. Simms' observations of butterflies in the trenches, I was grieved to hear that the pioneer entomologist of British Columbia, Mr. R. V. Harvey, had been killed "Somewhere in France." The ancients used the word Psyche to indicate both the **butterfly** and the **soul**; and the butterfly is forever regarded as a symbol of the resurrection—a sacred thought dear to many a dying entomologist.

The enemy has recently given the press the information that science, especially in Natural History in Canada, is at a standstill owing to the war. So far as Entomology is concerned, if anyone thinks it worth while to brand this statement as being of the same nature as others that are "Made in Germany," let him look up the records of the last meetings held in Ottawa, Montreal and Victoria, and learn that they rank among the best in the 52 years of our existence.