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THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA¹

W. A. Ross
Ottawa, Ontario

I believe members of the Entomological Society of British Columbia are aware that at the 87th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Ontario, held at Guelph on November 1-3, 1950, it was decided to form a national society to be called The Entomological Society of Canada. This very important event in the history of Canadian Entomology was the outcome of several years of study by a committee set up to implement the oft-expressed desire of Canadian entomologists to have a truly national association in this country. I shall not take the time to discuss the problems the committee encountered; suffice it to say that all of them were happily solved.

Although the constitution of The Entomological Society of Canada has not yet been written and approved, I can give you, on the basis of the resolution adopted at the Guelph meeting, an outline of the important functions of the association.

The new society will serve not as the parent of but simply as the link between the Acadian Entomological Society, the Entomological Society of Quebec, the Entomological Society of Ontario, the Entomological Society of Manitoba, the Entomological Society of British Columbia and any others that may be established. It seemed evident to those of us who had given careful thought to the advancement of the science of entomology by learned societies, that such advancement

could be brought about most successfully in this country of ours, with its great distances and with its many local variations and needs, by placing the greatest emphasis on the fostering of regional societies. Therefore, each regional society will be autonomous, with authority to set up its own constitution and by-laws and its membership and annual dues, and to publish, if it so desires, its own annual report, *e.g.*, the annual reports of the Entomological Society of Ontario, the Entomological Society of Manitoba, and the Entomological Society of British Columbia. (There is a little matter in connection with annual reports which I should deal with here. All members of the Entomological Society of Canada as well as subscribers to the Canadian Entomologist will continue to receive the Annual Report of the Entomological Society of Ontario. We have to thank the Ontario Society and the Ontario Department of Agriculture for this generous arrangement. But it does not follow that other regional societies will want or be able to do the same sort of thing. What they do with their annual reports in the matter of distribution, etc., will be entirely their own business.) The national organization will promote the welfare of the regional entomological societies and will encourage the formation of others. It will do nothing that might conceivably weaken them and in no sense will it dominate them. In brief, it will serve as the link in a Canadian commonwealth of regional autonomous societies.

¹Presented at the 50th Anniversary Meetings of the Entomological Society of British Columbia in Vancouver, June 14-16, 1952.

The Entomological Society of Canada publishes *The Canadian Entomologist* and it shares this responsibility with the Entomological Society of Ontario for two good reasons, one historical and sentimental, and the other financial: (1) It should never be forgotten that the Entomological Society of Ontario founded *The Canadian Entomologist* and was responsible for its publication for 82 years; (2) By maintaining a direct and financial interest in *The Canadian Entomologist*, the Entomological Society of Ontario is still eligible for the Ontario Government grant which will be used as a contribution to the cost of printing *The Canadian Entomologist*.

When the constitution is drafted and adopted, I hope it will be possible to say that membership in the Entomological Society of Canada is open to all persons, no matter where they live, whose pursuits or studies are connected with entomology or who are interested in natural history. Be that as it may, in the meantime I can say that all entomologists in Canada are eligible for membership in the Canadian Society. But, again with the idea of fostering and featuring the regional society, there are two classes of fees:—

1. For entomologists in an area not served by a regional society, for example Saskatchewan, the membership fee for 1951 is \$4.00 and this is payable to our Treasurer, Mr. A. B. Baird.
2. For entomologists who are members of regional societies, the membership fee in the Entomological Society of Canada is \$3.00, payable to the Secretary-Treasurer of one of the local societies.

It follows, therefore, that most of the dues will be collected by the regional societies. I suppose it is scarcely necessary to point out that the \$3.00 fee is additional to the local society fee and that the size of the local fee is entirely the affair of the regional organization.

The annual meeting of the National Society will always be held jointly with the annual meeting of one of the regional societies, *e.g.*, with the Entomological Society of Ontario in 1951, possibly with the Entomological Society of Quebec in 1952, with the Entomological Society of Manitoba in 1953 and so on. This will avoid the holding of too many major entomological meetings in Canada, will be less apt than any other arrangement to weaken the attendance at regional society meetings and will make it possible for most Canadian entomologists to attend at least one national meeting every several years. Incidentally the first annual meeting of the Canadian society will be held jointly with the 88th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Ontario, November 1, 2, and 3, in Ottawa—fittingly—in Ottawa, the capital of Canada, and also the headquarters of the national society. I sincerely hope it will be possible for a number of your members to attend this historic meeting.

I should like to say a special word about our journal, *The Canadian Entomologist*. As I have already mentioned, it is the responsibility of the Entomological Society of Canada to publish this journal regularly, to maintain high standards in it, and to keep it solvent, but the editor of the journal and the other society officers, cannot carry this responsibility without the whole-hearted support and co-operation of the regional societies. Each regional society, therefore, must exert every effort to enlist practically 100 per cent. of its members in the Entomological Society of Canada and to provide the editor of the journal with papers of high quality. The future status of *The Canadian Entomologist* and of the Entomological Society of Canada will be determined very largely by the amount of support afforded them by the regional societies and by all entomologists in this country.