Ralph Hopping (1868-1941)

Ralph Hopping died at his home in Vernon on the morning of October 29, 1941. By profession an economic forest entomologist, his hobby was systematics, and he was well known to students of the Coleoptera of North America. He had been a member of our Society for the past twenty years, and was President in 1936. He was born on April 8, 1868, in New York city. His father was George W. Hopping, expert accountant, treasurer of the firm of Seabury and Johnson (now Johnson & Johnson, makers of first-aid and medical supplies), and a veteran of the Civil War. His mother was Laura De Grasse.

Mr. Hopping was educated in New York; he completed his first two years at Rutgers College, then left because of ill health, and moved to California. He and his brother Burt arrived there on April 8, 1891, and joined the Kaweah Co-operative Colony in Tulare County. In April, 1892, he married Katherine Blanche Redstone, and they made their home in Kaweah. The colony disintegrated before long; Ralph Hopping then raised cattle, horses and mules, and in 1895 worked in a lumber mill. In 1898 or 1899 he entered into a partnership with John Broder, and they provided the first tourist accommodations within Sequoia National Park. From May 15 to October 1, 1900, they ran a tri-weekly stage line from Visalia to Kaweah post office, two miles beyond Three Rivers, and from there they used pack mules to carry tourists through the Park. "Camp Sierra" became a base for the packing operations in May, 1901, and from this main camp in Giant Forest, many guests took advantage of the pack-horse trips into the wild and beautiful country of the Kings and Kern River Canyons, and around Mt. Whitney. In this way, Ralph Hopping associated with many notable people, and formed a number of life-long friendships.

When Broder died the tourist camp failed, owing to the legal type of partnership under which it had been formed. Mr. Hopping then entered the United States Forest Service where, because of his knowledge of insects, he was soon made a Forest Examiner. He was placed in charge of insect control in District 5 (California) about 1912, and during the World War his territory included Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado. In 1918 the Dominion Entomological Branch and the British Columbia Provincial Forest Service decided to station a competent forest entomologist in British Columbia, largely because of an extensive outbreak of bark beetles (*Dendroctonus brevicomis* Lec., and *D. monticolae* Hopk.) in the yellow pine stands near Merritt. Dr. J. M. Swaine, then Chief of the Division of Forest Insects, Dominion Department of Agriculture, had been in correspondence with Ralph Hopping for some years, and knew that in matters relating to the control of injurious forest insects, he had more experience than anyone else in western North America. Accordingly in December of that year he asked if he would consider a position in British Columbia, stressing, amongst other things, the opportunity of publishing original observations. This latter point was certainly a major factor in Mr. Hopping's decision to accept the position. He arrived in British Columbia on December 12, 1919, and began his duties immediately as Forest Entomologist, with an office in the Court House in

Vernon. He remained in charge of forest entomology in British Columbia and western Alberta until his retirement on April 8, 1939, at which time he held the rank of Senior Assistant Agricultural Scientist.

From early boyhood he had the keenest interest in natural history, and began to collect beetles at the age of nine. This first collecting was done in and around Bloomfield, N. J., especially along the old Morris and Essex Canal. In the course of his duties, he travelled over most of the settled portions of British Columbia, and made friends wherever he went, endearing himself by his understanding kindliness and his unswerving integrity. Ever an upholder of fair play, he championed the "under dog" in an argument, and went out of his way, in official duties as in private life, to help others. A rare woodsman, he loved the outdoors, and in earlier life few could hold his pace on the trail. His thorough knowledge of dendrology, combined with his unusual powers of observation, resulted in many valuable additions to taxonomic botany by other workers. Always on the watch for beetles, he was continually adding to the large collection and library he brought from California. A great deal of his time was spent in identifying species for other students and he kept up an extensive correspondence. The cerambycid or "longhorn" beetles of the tribe *Lepturini* were his favourites, though he published on several other families; nearly all of his thirty-six articles appeared after 1920. A number of species and at least one genus of beetles, have been named in his honour.

In 1929 he suffered the loss of his wife, and there is no doubt that working over his collection of beetles was a great boon to him in the years that followed. On May 12, 1939, he married Mrs. Eltha Edwards, who survives him and lives in Vernon. He is also survived by a son, George R. of Vernon, two daughters, Mrs. Parker Talbot of San Luis Obispo, Calif., and Mrs. H. C. Hughes of Nelson, B. C., two brothers, Roy and Guy in California, and a sister, Mrs. Jessie Scott of Pasadena, Calif.

Hugh B. Leech.

J. K. Jacob (Died November 28, 1941.)

John Kenneth Jacob is dead, this Province is the poorer for his going and the University has lost one of its most promising graduates. From Prince of Wales school he entered the Faculty of Applied Science at the University of British Columbia, graduating in forest engineering in 1933, then switching to Arts he took his B.A. in 1935 and then M.A. with first class honours in Zoology and Botany in 1938—all by the time he was 27 years old.

Under a Carnegie Graduate Scholarship for research, he made a painstaking and thorough study of the insects affecting all stored food products in the port of Vancouver, ranging from corner grocery stores to flour mills and elevators. He was the best-informed man in Canada on the dreaded wood-destroyers, the termites or white ants, having worked out

the complicated life history of local species. His publications range from systematic and distributional, to faunal studies in entomology; Dr. R. E. Hardy of Utah State Agricultural College named a new insect species in his honour. Recognizing his wide experience and extreme precision, the Dominion Government employed him for two seasons especially to collect certain most-wanted and rare specimens for the National Museum at Ottawa. Leland Stanford University of California awarded him a fellowship to work under Dr. Gordon Ferris, the world's recognized authority in micro-entomology, and he was proceeding to California in 1939 when he became ill and had to enter hospital.

Kindly, unobtrusive, modest, Kenneth's hobby was playing classical music on the piano. He was better known in the scientific world than socially and he leaves his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Jacob of Vancouver, B. C., and a wide range of friends.

GEO. J. SPENCER.

HOST POISONING BY IXODES CALIFORNICUS BANKS. (Acarina, Ixodidae) *

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Ixodes californicus Banks, sometimes referred to as the Coast Tick, is one of the three most important of British Columbia's ticks. It differs from the other two species in that the bite itself is often poisonous, quite apart from its disease transmitting potentialities. Lately, with the influx of new residents and their pets into fast-growing residential areas which are the habitat of *I. californicus*, records of poisoning from its bite have come regularly to Kamloops. Here at the Laboratory, studies of the life-history of this tick have shown that all stages may produce severe toxemia in host animals.

Persons who have been bitten by this tick very frequently experience a marked swelling of the area surrounding the bite. This inflammation may last for several days, and often causes considerable pain and discomfort. Of ninety replies to a tick-questionnaire sent from this laboratory to residents of West Vancouver, B. C., thirty made mention of such a reaction. The writer, while on a collecting trip, also experinced the marked effects of this poison; a tick attached itself to his arm and was there less than an hour before being discovered and removed. There was an almost immediate reaction, the arm swelling from the wrist to the shoulder, the discomfort becoming progressively more intense until it reached a peak forty-eight hours after the tick had been removed. Associated with the arm condition was a dull ache over the affected side of the body accompanied by a general feeling of malaise.

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