

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

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Cobble Hill, B.C.

Again it is my privilege to welcome the members of the Entomological Society of British Columbia, this time to their 45th Annual Meeting.

It is a desirable feature to hold our meetings on occasion at varying points in the Province, and it should help to diffuse a better understanding of our Society's work and activities, many of which, in the economic sphere in particular, are of value to the agriculturist, the horticulturist, the fruitgrower and those dependent on forestry for their living. It also gives an opportunity for members who would otherwise be unable to attend through difficulties of travel and other causes, to be present when the meeting is held near their home town, or place of employment. Hence the choice of Lytton this year, being, as it is, a reasonably easy journey both from the coastal areas and the interior of the Province.

Since we last met, world events have moved very swiftly and we now find ourselves in a period of transition from a world war to an era of peace, with its visions of great opportunities and progress, but also, let us not forget, beset with its attendant difficulties and problems. As touching our Society we look forward to a period of expansion both in membership and activities.

**MEMBERSHIP**—In the name of the Society I welcome all those, whose names have been put forward for nomination, and who will shortly, in due course of procedure, be elected members.

The Society extends a cordial welcome to the men and women of the services on their return to civil life and the resumption of normal activities and invites any interested in the ways and habits of insects to become members, and so give us and the Province as a whole the benefit of their discoveries, knowledge and ability.

Our universities and colleges are full to overflowing and among these many stu-

dents there are some who no doubt are interested in entomological research. We should not overlook nor ignore these potential entomologists, but make them feel welcome in our midst and give encouragement to them in their work.

Young people especially react favourably when interest is shown by those of us who are older and presumably therefore possessed of greater learning and wisdom. Sound advice and constructive criticism, given in a kindly way, are valuable in helping the inexperienced student, whereas destructive criticism merely blasts earnest endeavour. With so many returned men and women in our colleges this would seem an opportune time to offer a small prize, perhaps a book or something of that nature, to be awarded to a deserving student who shows promise of distinguished achievement in entomological research. By so doing the Society would be showing in a practical way its interest in the students of our Province.

**ACTIVITIES**—As to the Society's activities, now that peace time conditions lie ahead, equal stress should be laid upon work of a purely scientific value as upon economic research. However it is only to be expected that the latter will seem of greater importance to many, especially the general public.

There is a wide scope in both fields. On the purely scientific side, more information would be welcome on such subjects as hybridization, the causes which contribute to colour variation in species, the reasons for gynandromorphic specimens and whether this can be produced artificially, the diseases of insects, their causes and cure, if any, and many other kindred subjects. For those interested in taxonomy the compiling and revision of check lists, lists of host plants and of the geographical distribution of species, are but a few examples of much needed work. On the economic side, further experiments in the use of in-

secticides, such as the powerful DDT are urgently required. Decisions will have to be made in the light of available data as to the advisability of wholesale and unrestricted use of any particular insecticide. The question to be decided is whether the advantages to be gained by an intensive application of powerful insecticide in any one area with the resultant death of all but a few species of insects may be outweighed by the destruction of many beneficial insects and the balance of nature upset.

To turn to another topic, interest is being shown in some quarters of the Province in the breeding for commercial purposes of the silk-worm *Bombyx mori* Linnaeus. Information as to the best methods of breeding the larvae would doubtless be welcome. Also in districts where its primary food plant the mulberry is scarce, information as to substitute food plants would be desirable. Currant and lettuce have been tried by some and the larvae have been known to feed on these plants and spin their cocoons. Lettuce, however, is liable to cause diarrhoea and is therefore not very satisfactory. Some of our members could perhaps furnish more information on the above lines.

There is another point which should not be overlooked, that of instructing the public. For the most part the average person is very ignorant about the ways and habits of insects. One common example will illustrate what I mean. About this time of the year, or even earlier, it is not uncommon to find references in the press to the early appearance of butterflies. The insect is frequently called "Amos," and certain deductions are made of a more or less erroneous nature. This year radio commentators have joined the press in mentioning the early appearance of butterflies, and deducing from such appearances an exceptionally early spring or specially favourable weather for some place or other. There may be an element of truth in all this, but the fact is overlooked that many species of butterflies such as Commas, Tortoise-shells, the Mourning Cloaks and possibly in suitable districts Red Admirals, hibernate during the winter months in such places as barns,

outhouses, basements, wood piles and thick brush. Consequently on a mild and sunny day in winter or early spring they may frequently be seen taking an airing as if enjoying a brief spell of exercise in the sun's genial rays. There is no particular significance in this. It is quite a normal habit. On the other hand a report of the appearance of a non-hibernating species such as an Orange Tip, a Blue, or Cabbage White at a very early date would be of note and worthy of press or radio comment. Members of our Society could help to correct such misconceptions as the one now under review by giving accurate and interesting information from time to time about our insects, either by articles in the press, through information supplied to the schools, or in many other ways. Erroneous ideas should whenever possible be dispelled by someone competent to do so. One thing we should remember when addressing the public is to use language which they understand so that they will benefit by the information offered and we on our part will not be misunderstood and perhaps ridiculed. It is abundantly clear then that there is a wide choice of activity open to our members in the years that lie ahead.

**FINANCES.**—The finances of the Society show a distinct improvement. They show a credit balance of about \$85.00. This is very largely due to the successful advertising campaign conducted by Messrs. Ivor Ward and Ralph Cudmore and the thanks of the Society are due to them for their efforts. The fears of those who thought that the general appearance of the PROCEEDINGS would be spoiled by the presence of advertisements seem quite unjustified.

It will be noted that the amount borrowed from the Reserve Endowment Fund has been recovered, but to replace this immediately would leave only a few dollars in the general account with which to carry on. It would be unwise to take any action which would leave the Secretary-Treasurer with no adequate funds with which to start the financial year. A similar result next year and the year following should show a satisfactory credit balance after all indebted-

edness to the Reserve Fund has been paid up. This fund is now a separate account into which all moneys earmarked for it will be paid in future.

Now a word as to the ultimate use of the Reserve Fund. It is desirable and necessary that this fund should be augmented so that the Society may have adequate and independent reserves with which to enlarge and improve the PROCEEDINGS and possibly to publish a quarterly journal and to restore the privilege granted by many contemporaries of 25 free copies of reprints. To be independent of any outside assistance for our publications is a very worth-while objective, and one which will give complete freedom to our editorial committee in its choice of material for publication. At the present time it is under obligation to give preference to economic papers.

However we ought not to stop at the mere provision of funds for our publications. As a learned Society we should do something to justify that claim. For example we should offer prizes and scholarships. It would be much to our credit, and probably to our advantage, if we were to start some such action in the immediate future. A small prize could be offered now and a larger one later on till we could see our way clear to provide a scholarship. Such a step seems eminently desirable. So again I commend this fund to your notice, sympathetic consideration and generous support and remind you of my previous remarks on this subject (Presidential Address, in 1944 PROCEEDINGS, 41:2).

**LIBRARY.**—A learned society should be in possession of a good library, and we are fortunate in having a very good nucleus upon which to build one. Unfortunately, however, little use is made of it at the present time chiefly because the books are scattered, some at the Parliament Buildings in Victoria and some at the office of the Dominion Plant Inspection Department in the Federal Building at Vancouver, and also because there is no adequate catalogue. The time appears to be ripe for some action which will make the library accessible and of real use to the members.

Probably a library committee should be appointed to go into the ways and means of bringing this about. The books should be collected in to some central place where they would be available to the greatest number of our members and should be of easy access; also a suitable catalogue should be compiled. It would be unwise, however, to authorize any action which would allow our library to become the property of some other institution as a price for getting it catalogued. Such action, if taken, would probably be regretted later. This question of cataloguing has been discussed before, and various methods have been described to us and we have been urged to choose one or other method. Do we need an elaborate form of catalogue? Ours is not a public library and our membership is not large. A simple and inexpensive catalogue would seem to be all that is necessary to supply the needs of the members. With these matters attended to, members might be encouraged to donate books to the library, or to direct in their wills that their libraries of entomological books become the Society's property. Books might also be purchased with a grant from the Society's funds from time to time to complete sets of such journals as the "Canadian Entomologist" and to obtain other desirable books.

**ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA.**—A proposition emanating from the Entomological Society of Ontario. It suggests formation of an Entomological Society of Canada to speak and act in the name of Canadian entomologists as a whole. You have received copies of the proposals and I trust that you have given them careful consideration. Theoretically, the idea is eminently sound and is in many respects desirable, and is in keeping with the growing importance and prestige of the Dominion. But theories do not always work when put into actual practice, and it is therefore my duty to warn members not to make any hasty or unwise decisions upon this important matter. Under the scheme, our Society remains a branch of the new society, and it is assumed that all or at least the majority of our members will wish to join the new organization. It is very doubtful if this as-

sumption is justified. It is a matter for speculation as to whether the society will ever be anything more than one on paper. We are told that the existing societies and new ones, which it is hoped to form, will in fact constitute the new society. This is no doubt theoretically correct.

It is also questionable as to whether a truly representative number of members from each Province and district of Canada could attend the new society's meetings. This very difficulty has arisen on a smaller scale, with regard to our own society. At the Coast meetings there is usually a preponderance of Coast members present, and

at meetings held in the interior of the Province the reverse prevails. There is therefore grave doubt as to whether we are justified in expecting anything very different in the case of a Dominion-wide society. Then there is the question of the status of our PROCEEDINGS under the new proposals. The proposals seem somewhat nebulous and in need of clarification. The matter calls for our careful and serious thought. However, we should take a broad-minded attitude towards the proposition and weigh the pros and cons very carefully and after having done this express our views clearly and unequivocally.

## In Memoriam

### WILLIAM ARTHUR DASHWOOD-JONES, 1858-1928

My father, the late William Arthur Dashwood-Jones, pioneer, and amateur entomologist and horticulturist, was born on March 25, 1858, at Kinson, Dorset, England, the only son of Captain W. A. Dashwood-Jones, Royal Artillery, and Mrs. Dashwood-Jones. He spent his childhood under the guardianship of his uncle at Upton House, Poole, Dorset. He was educated by private tutors and later went to Wimbourne Grammar school, and was in London at the University College school preparing for Cambridge, when, on the loss of his income, he decided to go to British Columbia. He left England in March, 1876, and arrived at Portland, Maine, where he took train for San Francisco, and came up the coast by boat to Victoria, landing there on April 26. He made his home at Nanaimo with his uncle, the late Archdeacon Mason, Rector of St. Paul's, later Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria and first Archdeacon of Vancouver.

Father spent some time in Nanaimo and Victoria, and ranched on Lasqueti Island and at Duncan. In 1878 he went to take charge of the Inverness cannery winter quarters on the Skeena River where he

spent one winter alone but for one other white man. Leaving there he went to Yale before construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, then returned to Victoria. He went then to Drynock, where he was attached the Resident Engineer's staff on construction of the railway. The camp had the honour of entertaining the Marquis of Lorne, Governor General of Canada, who came that far on his way to British Columbia. Father later went on to Spences

