

from Smith College, Massachusetts, for printing separates and part of this sum has already been transmitted. The total assets of the Society amount to \$143.01, which is a satisfactory balance to commence the year with. During the coming season our expenses will not be as heavy as last year for we have but one number of the Proceedings to pay for, the Economic series being printed for us free of charge by the Provincial Department of Agriculture. I have also pleasure in stating that the Department has agreed to publish free for us the index to the Society's Proceedings which has been prepared by Mr. Venables. The manuscript of this index is now in the printers' hands and it is hoped that it may be issued before very long.

Respectfully submitted,

W. DOWNES,

Honorary Secretary-Treasurer.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

To the Members of the British Columbia Entomological Society:

Gentlemen,—It gives me very great pleasure, I can assure you, to welcome you to the Twenty-first Annual Meeting of our Society, and also to congratulate the Society on having attained its majority as a Society.

Since the formation of our association, Entomology has taken great strides forward and I am gratified to find that we have members representing almost all parts of our beautiful province. Nowhere else in the Dominion of Canada is there such a field for the pursuit of our favorite study, embracing as it does such a wide variation in climatic conditions, in addition to equally wide differences in natural conditions as to soil and vegetation. We have here every grade from alpine flora and fauna to those of more lowland areas, with all the various stages from the one extreme to the other.

Naturally under these conditions British Columbia offers inducements second to none to those who have the inclination and leisure to pursue the study of Entomology and I am glad to find amongst us many who have not as much leisure as they would wish, but yet are so enthusiastic that they devote what leisure they can find or make to our favorite study, and I am pleased indeed to recognize the good work done by such men and I feel sure that you will all heartily agree with me in according them our warmest praise for their good work.

The secretary, Mr. Downes, is unfortunately unable to be present with us, on account of his duties calling him to Ottawa at this time, but I understand from his report that the affairs of the Society are in a flourishing condition. For myself I may say that owing to my connection with municipal affairs and other public business I have not been

able to devote that close attention to matters of detail in connection with the Society's business which I could have wished, and which they properly demand, and I think it would be preferable to have someone in the position of president who is not hampered with other cares, if that is possible.

Now, as to membership, I am afraid we are not getting as many recruits as we should do, and older members have dropped out from time to time due to removal or other causes. The thoughts of the younger generation unfortunately in these times seem to tend to more frivolous enjoyments and unless we can find some means to create more interest in young minds in the study of the thousand and one beauties of nature all around them, there is grave danger of our Society dwindling in membership. True, there is what is called nature study in the schools, but as far as my experience goes it is more or less of a perfunctory nature, and falls very far short of accomplishing anything worth while. At some period in every young person's life some sort of collecting hobby takes hold of them and if it fortunately takes the form of collecting insects, the next desire is to know their names, habits and all about them, then follows a desire to have them classified properly and in due time we have an entomologist. So that the amateur collector is the first stage in the foundation of such a society as ours.

Economic entomology is and must continue to be of the first importance as regards the commercial side, if I may so express it. There is scarcely a line of business in any way connected with producing the means of existence for the human race with which it is not intimately connected, and this fact is more and more recognized by the various governments which have their staffs of entomologists officered by splendid men, but let us not forget the systematic man, nay, let us encourage even the mere amateur collector, for it is for those who follow our favorite study for the love of it that associations such as ours were primarily formed. There should, in fact, be close co-operation between the economic and systematic members of our Society; one should fit in with the other. It is sometimes the collector who first discovers the existence of a harmful species in a locality which might otherwise have escaped notice.

There is a vast field for study for those who have the time and opportunity to devote to it in working out the life histories as far as possible of the great majority of our species in the various orders. Probably most of us have noticed how few of the butterflies in Holland's book have anything known of their earlier stages; it gets almost monotonous to read "Earlier Stages Unknown," varied with "At Present Unknown" or "These Await Description." Even many of our prevalent species are

only known in the perfect form. Perhaps there may be some among us who will tempt Providence in this direction.

In the various orders good work has been done during the past year. I would like particularly to mention the good work of Mr. E. H. Blackmore in extending our knowledge of the Micro-Lepidoptera of the province. Many new species have been discovered and a large number of known species added to the B. C. list. In this work he has had the assistance of many of the members in various parts of the province, and I may say that it has been my privilege to do my share in a small way in my own particular locality. This work is still in progress, and when the material is all determined, a very large addition will be made to the B. C. list.

A feature of the past year has been the serious outbreak on the lower mainland of the European Satin Moth which bids fair, unless some means is found of checking it, to do immense damage to Lombardy and other poplars. Wherever there were Lombardy or Russian Poplars in New Westminster and district, the moths swarmed in July and early August and I fear the results will be only too apparent when the foliage comes after the period of hibernation is over.

It is with great regret that I have to note the removal of Mr. R. C. Treherne to Ottawa during the year. We shall miss him very much and we hope he will be able to return to British Columbia as a resident some time in the future.

I will conclude these somewhat rambling notes with the hope that all the members of the Society may enjoy a very prosperous year, entomologically and in every other way.

L. E. MARMONT.