

The Canadian Entomologist.

VOL. XLIX.

LONDON, FEBRUARY, 1917

No. 2

EDMUND BAYNES REED.

Few of the present members of the Entomological Society of Ontario have any knowledge of the pioneer work which was done more than half a century ago by a small band of enthusiastic entomologists. Very few of those who joined in its organization on the 16th of April, 1863, survived to witness its Jubilee three years ago; among these were Mr. Edmund Baynes Reed, and now he has in his turn been removed by death after a long illness due to heart trouble. He died at Victoria, B.C., on Saturday, November 18th, in the 79th year of his age.

Mr. Reed came to Canada from England when a young man and settled in London, Ontario, where for some years he practiced his profession as a lawyer. The kind of work it entailed was not very congenial to him, and was consequently abandoned.

As a devoted member of the Church of England, he took a keen and active interest in its concerns, and became Secretary-Treasurer of the Synod of the Diocese of Huron—a position which he continued to hold until his removal to British Columbia in the year 1890.

From his boyhood days in England he was devoted to Natural History, and especially to the collection and study of insects. To these pursuits he devoted most of his leisure hours, and when the Society was formed he became one of its most energetic and useful members. To him was chiefly due the establishment of the library which is now one of the most valuable of the kind in the Dominion. In co-operation with Dr. William Saunders he was instrumental in forming the London Branch of the Society, which grew and flourished for several years and was finally absorbed by the parent Society when its headquarters were removed to London. When it was decided to send a representative collection of Canadian insects to the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876, Mr. Reed devoted all his spare time during many months to its prepara-

tion and contributed the whole of his collections. He was Secretary-Treasurer of the Society in 1871 to 1873 and from 1880 to 1886; member of the Council from 1874 to 1876; Vice-President in 1874, 1877 and from 1887 to 1889; and during most of these years Curator and Librarian as well.

The following extract from the report of the Council for the year ending August 31st, 1890, is a well-merited appreciation of the many services that he rendered to the Society: "The Council desire to place on record their feelings of deep regret at the removal of Mr. Reed from this Province and the loss which the Society thereby sustains. Mr. Reed is one of the original members of this Society, and for more than a quarter of a century has been one of the most active and zealous of its officials, filling at different times the positions of Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Librarian, Curator and Auditor. To him it is especially due that the Library has grown to its present dimensions and value, and that so much progress has been made by the Society in many directions. The Council beg to thank Mr. Reed for his services in the past, and wish him all possible success and prosperity in his new and important sphere of labour."

When the Society was called upon in 1870 to make its first Annual Report on insects in relation to agriculture and fruit-growing, Mr. Reed joined with Dr. Saunders and Dr. Bethune and contributed the article on "Insects affecting the Plum;" a further article in continuation of the same subject was published in the Second Report, and also papers on "Insects injurious to the Potato," and "Insects attacking the Cucumber, Melon, Pumpkin and Squash." His further contributions to the annual reports were "Insects affecting Maple Trees," "Insects affecting the Peach," and addendum to the "Insects injurious to the Potato" (3rd Report, 1872); "On some common insects which affect the Horse, the Ox and the Sheep" (4th Report, 1873); "Entomological Contributions: The Io Moth, the Flat-headed Apple-tree Borer and the Locust-tree Borer" (5th Report, 1874); "Sphingidæ—Hawk-moths" (12th Report, 1881); "Diptera—Two-winged Flies" (13th Report, 1882); and a number of short notes in several of the volumes. He also prepared a useful Index to the first thirteen Reports 1870–1882, a pamphlet of 35 pages.

Mr. Reed was also a constant contributor to the Canadian Entomologist. His articles related chiefly to the Lepidoptera and included descriptions of larvæ, records of rare captures, collecting notes, and popular papers on various common insects. He was equally interested in both systematic and economic Entomology.

Though specially devoted to the study of insects, he was for many years engaged as an amateur in taking meteorological observations. In co-operation with the Observatory at Toronto, he installed the necessary apparatus, using the tower of the Cathedral for his anemometer and vanes, and connecting them with his house which was near by. His records were so accurate and satisfactory that he was selected to take charge of a newly-established Observatory at Victoria, British Columbia, to which place he removed in 1890 and there remained for six and twenty years—respected by all who came in contact with him and beloved by his friends.

During Mr. Reed's residence in London the writer had the pleasure of intimate friendship with him, and often enjoyed his hospitality when attending the Annual Meetings of the Society. He was always an agreeable and sympathetic companion, merry and vivacious, cheerful and happy hearted. Since his removal to the distant Pacific Coast, the friendship has been maintained by correspondence in default of ever meeting; his last letters related to the celebration of the Society's Jubilee, in which he was deeply interested.

C. J. S. BETHUNE.

POPULAR AND PRACTICAL ENTOMOLOGY.

ON THE PORTRAIT OF A WOLF SPIDER.

BY CHARLES MACNAMARA, ARNPRIOR, ONTARIO.

The number of species of insects and their allies in the world is a frequent subject of discussion among entomologists, and it may be remarked that writers differ a good deal on the question. But I have never come across any attempt at a general insect census. Doubtless the numbers are too appalling, and the would-be enumerator must shrink aghast before the frightful superabundance of invertebrate life. To count the stars of the Milky Way would be

February, 1917