

# The Canadian Entomologist

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## CHARLES GORDON HEWITT.

In the death of Charles Gordon Hewitt, Dominion Entomologist and Consulting Zoologist, the biological sciences have lost a leader of exceptional ability. Not only was he held in the highest esteem by his colleagues of the Dominion Entomological Service, but entomologists generally the world over appreciated his brilliant attainments and marked executive ability. Although eminent in entomology his studies were by no means confined to this science. A broad study of economic zoology from the national standpoint occupied a large share of his thoughts particularly during the last four or five years of his life.

During his eleven years of office he developed the Dominion Entomological Service from a very small division, with one assistant and a stenographer, attached to the Experimental Farms Branch, to an important separate Branch of the Department of Agriculture. This development of the Entomological Branch was his most important achievement, and the organization he perfected will remain a tribute to his great ability and zeal. The broad development of the Entomological Branch is instanced in the establishment of important Divisions at Ottawa, such as the Division of Field Crop and Garden Insects, the Division of Forest Insects, the Division of Foreign Pests Suppression, and the Division of Systematic Entomology, all under the immediate direction of highly-qualified Chiefs. In addition to these divisions of the work special officers have been given charge of such lines of study as Natural Control Investigations, Insecticide Investigations, and Stored Product Insect Investigations. In the various provinces too, field or regional laboratories have been established with trained entomologists in charge, who study local problems and disseminate information of value to agriculturists, horticulturists, lumbermen and others.

In 1909, Dr. Hewitt recognized the importance of legislation to prevent the introduction or spreading of insects, pests and diseases destructive to vegetation, and as a result Parliament passed the Destructive Insect and Pest Act in May, 1910. Under the regulations of this Act inspectors were appointed to deal with the threatened spread of the brown tail moth in the Maritime provinces, and provisions were made for the prohibition, fumigation or inspection of nursery stock at definite ports of entry. In addition to the brown tail scouting work, which he developed in co-operation with the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, he also arranged for the collection in Massachusetts and establishment in eastern Canada of thousands of parasitic and predaceous enemies of the brown tail and gipsy moths. Dr. Hewitt was keenly interested in medical entomology and accomplished much useful work on problems related to the house-fly, mosquitoes, ticks and other animals which spread disease.

He was the author of important books and memoirs. His chief published work is the well-known book on the house-fly of which there were two editions. A smaller book on the same subject appeared later as one of the Cambridge

Manuals of Science and Literature. His departmental publications consist of a series of annual reports (1910-1916), bulletins, and circulars, chief among the latter of which are those dealing with the Honey Bee and the Large Larch Sawfly. Very recently he completed an important work on the conservation of the wild life of Canada, the manuscript for which is now ready for the press. The publication in 1919 of the various parts of an important volume on the insects collected by the Canadian Arctic Expedition, 1913-1918, was brought about under his direction.

Dr. Hewitt's reputation was by no means confined to Canada. In addition to a wide connection among scientific workers in England his outstanding abilities were soon recognized by entomologists in the United States, where economic entomology particularly has reached such a high development. In the year 1913 he was honoured by being elected a Fellow of the Entomological Society of America. In 1915 he was elected President of the American Association of Economic Entomologists. In Canada, in 1913, he accepted the Presidency of the Entomological Society of Ontario and in the same year was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. In the following year he was appointed Honorary treasurer of the latter society, which office he held at the time of his death. He was a Fellow of the Entomological Society of London, England; a corresponding member of the Zoological Society of London and Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, London, England. He was a recognized student of wild life preservation and rendered valued service in the capacity of Secretary of the Advisory Board on Wild Life Protection. In March, 1918, he was elected President of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club for the year 1918-19.

The gold medal of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds was presented to Dr. Hewitt on March 12th, 1918, in grateful recognition of successful efforts in furthering the treaty between Canada and the United States for the protection of migratory birds.

A short time before his death he was chosen as the first President of the recently organized Institute of Professional Civil Servants. In addition he was President of the Ottawa Boys Home, an ardent supporter of the Boy Scout movement and a Councillor of the Ottawa Humane Society.

Dr. Hewitt was born near Macclesfield, England, on February 23rd, 1885. He was the son of Thomas Henry Hewitt and of his wife Rachel Frost. He received his early education at the King Edward VI Grammar School, Macclesfield, afterwards entering Manchester University, from which institution he received the following degrees: B. Sc. in 1902; M. Sc. in 1903, D. Sc. in 1909. He obtained first-class honours in Zoology at Manchester University, and was university prize man and scholar. In 1902 he was appointed by his alma mater Assistant Lecturer in Zoology, and in 1904-9 occupied the position of Lecturer in Economic Zoology. In 1909 he left England for Canada, having received the appointment of Dominion Entomologist. In 1916, his title was changed to that of Dominion Entomologist and Consulting Zoologist.

On October 11, 1911, Dr. Hewitt was married at Canning, N. S., to Elizabeth Borden, daughter of Surgeon General Sir Frederick Borden, K. C. M. G., Minister of Militia and Defence from 1896 to 1911.

Dr. Hewitt's eminence as a scientist and administrator was widely recognized. As an ardent student of wild life he was deeply interested in the development of game reserves, bird sanctuaries and all plans for the protection of wild life. The versatility of his interests in science, literature, art, music, and social welfare, combined with the charm of his fine character, had endeared him to many personal friends. His remarkable ability and well directed ambitions enabled him to accomplish more in the thirty-five years he lived than is compassed by most men in a long lifetime.

Dr. Hewitt had attended the meetings of the Commission of Conservation, at Montreal, on February 18th and 19th, at which he presented an important paper on "Fur Bearing Animals, their Economic Significance and Future."

Soon after his return to Ottawa on the 20th he was taken seriously ill with influenza; this soon developed into pleural pneumonia and he died about 11 p.m., on February 29, 1920.

The following resolution was passed at a recent meeting of the Council of the Entomological Society of Ontario.

"The Council of the Entomological Society of Ontario have learnt with extreme regret of the unexpected death of Dr. C. Gordon Hewitt, a former President of the Society, and Dominion Entomologist, and desire to place on record their high appreciation of his eminence in this branch of Science and of the notable work that he carried on by establishing field laboratories with capable managers in all the Provinces of the Dominion, in addition to the activities which he directed at the central office in Ottawa. They feel that the Society and Entomological Science in Canada have sustained a great loss which can hardly be over-estimated. Their sorrow in this bereavement is shared by a large number of Dr. Hewitt's friends in the United States as well as by all those who were associated with him in this country.

They wish to convey to Mrs. Hewitt their tribute of sympathy with her in the great loss that she has sustained and their high appreciation of her late husband as a leader and friend."

The senate of his alma mater passed the following resolution:

"The members of the senate desire to express their deep regret at the death of Dr. Charles Gordon Hewitt, formerly a student, graduate scholar, and lecturer in the University. He attained to great distinction by his researches in Entomology and by his great administrative abilities as chief entomologist in the Dominion of Canada.

They feel that by his early death a career of great distinction has been prematurely closed. They desire that a copy of this resolution be sent to his widow and to his father."

ARTHUR GIBSON,

J. M. SWAINE.