

# The Canadian Entomologist.

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Wars, rumours of wars, preparations for wars, are, in general, very unfavorable to science, either as a practical pursuit with humanitarian objectives or as a balanced speculative activity.

It is true that the vital necessity of success in attack or defence, now induces enlightened governments to lean heavily, in wartime, on the scientific corporation, which can count on financial support not usually forthcoming in peace-time. Investigations subsidized for military purposes have undoubtedly produced results of theoretical interest and practical value: air transport has been perfected, new germicides and repellents for disease-carrying insects have been developed, new and delicate surgical operations have been worked out. However, the benefits derived from such by-products of war are far outweighed by the effects of discoveries utilised for destruction; by the annihilation of materials and records and the interruption of studies of a beneficial or, at least, a harmless character. Moreover, it is not at all certain that the most important scientific results emerge from disciplined and coordinated teamwork. All things considered, science is usually a war-time casualty.

Scientific journals, expensive to produce and scantily supported nearly always run into difficulties in war-time. Contributors are drawn away from their normal avocations into the military effort, so that there is a shortage of manuscripts. Shortages of labour and materials develop, hampering production still further. These inconveniences cannot and do not disappear with the cessation of hostilities. Some time elapses before conditions return to normal. Furthermore, the effects of the difficulties are cumulative.

The effects of war-time conditions on the Canadian Entomologist can be seen clearly enough in the last five or six volumes. At one time, the journal was mailed early in the month given on the cover. Assuming, that it should be mailed on the first of each month, we find that in 1942 there is an average mailing delay of 43 days; in 1943, of 46 days; in 1944 of 48 days. In 1945 this rises to 141 days and in 1946 to 185 days. For the 1947 volume, the average delay was over 200 days and in fact the later numbers of this year have appeared over a year late. Eventually, the supply of manuscripts began to fall off. At the end of 1946, three double numbers appeared containing respectively 23, 27 and 19 pages, which is less than a normal single number. By the end of 1948, it became evident that a readjustment by the issue of monthly numbers of the journal, was practically impossible.

The Directors of the Entomological Society of Ontario therefore decided to utilise the available manuscripts for the preparation of a complete volume representing the year 1948 (Vol. LXXX). This contains an account of the proceedings of the 50th anniversary meeting of the Montreal Branch of the Entomological Society of Ontario and is issued as a Commemorative Volume. It has not been possible to expand it to normal dimensions. Nevertheless the preparation, within a short period, of the Commemorative volume, together with the double number for November and

December 1947 and the first number of the 1949 volume, has entailed an unusual amount of labour and was only made possible by the generous co-operation of Professors A. W. Baker, R. H. Ozburn and members of their Department, who have assisted the Editor in arranging material, reading proof and supervising printing.

It is hoped that from January 1949 the Canadian Entomologist will appear promptly, at fairly regular monthly intervals and with certain improvements in paper and format. To finance the journal under present conditions an increase in membership fees, subscription price and advertising rates, has been necessary. The Directors are confident that the members of the Entomological Society of Ontario, the subscribers to the Canadian Entomologist and the advertisers also, will accept and approve the action taken and will provide the support necessary to enable this very old and respected journal to continue its services to the entomological corporation.

W. R. Thompson,  
Editor, Canadian Entomologist.

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SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING  
OF THE  
MONTREAL BRANCH OF THE  
ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ONTARIO  
1873 — 1948

The Eighty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Ontario, which celebrated the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Montreal Branch of the Society, was held in Montreal on November 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1948. The meetings were held at McGill University and Université de Montréal. One hundred and sixty-one members and visitors were registered for the meetings.

The arrangements for the meeting were in the hands of a local committee of Messrs. Monro, Bellemare, Morrison and Stanley, and a programme committee of Messrs. West, A. W. A. Brown, Wilkes and Prebble. Ably assisted by the officers of the Montreal Branch these committees produced one of the best programmes in the history of the Society, and a series of meetings fitting to the special occasion.

An interesting feature of the meetings was a beautifully prepared Commemorative Programme. This included an interesting account of the Montreal Branch and the Lyman Entomological Room, and a most intriguing "Entomologist's Strategical Guide to Montreal". The cost of production of this souvenir programme was met by the Lyman Entomological Bequest. Following is the programme of the meetings.