

(Reprinted from the Annual Report for 1887.)

INAUGURAL ADDRESS
OF
THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ONTARIO.
1887.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—Through the courtesy of the Mayor and Corporation of the city we are enabled this evening to make use of this commodious chamber.* The committee room put at our disposal for the other meetings would have been entirely inadequate to accommodate the large audience which I have the great gratification of now seeing before me. This pleasure, too, is considerably heightened, as I notice amongst you many of the class which our Society particularly strives to reach—to wit, farmers and gardeners—men who are daily brought face to face with the foes or friends, of which our members make it their special study to investigate the habits.

As there are many here this evening who are not members of the Entomological Society of Ontario, it is fitting that I should state briefly the nature and objects of that Society. Previous to 1863 there was no such society in Canada; but in that year a few naturalists, living in different parts of the Provinces, met together in Toronto and organized under the name of the Entomological Society of Canada. The membership at first was only sixteen, and this number included all those then known to be interested in insect life in Canada. From this small beginning the Society has steadily increased until its membership now reaches upwards of 500, and includes all the active workers in North America. The work done in the early years of the Society, notwithstanding the fact that the members were widely separated, was such that it soon became manifest that they must have some means of publishing the results of their observations for the benefit of each other and the scientific world in general. Accordingly in August, 1868, appeared the first number of the *Canadian Entomologist*, a monthly periodical, which from that time forward has been regularly published, and was for some years the only publication on the continent of America devoted solely to this important branch of natural history. It has now nearly completed its nineteenth volume. From the outset a noticeable characteristic of this magazine has been, that its pages have been entirely filled with the records of original work, and during its existence it has been the means of disseminating a vast amount of scientific knowledge, which has been of benefit not only to Canada but to the world at large. This organ of the Society is more particularly the scientific record of work done by the members, although it also contains many illustrated elementary and popular papers for the benefit of beginners. In addition to this, however, and what is an important part of our work, a popular report of some 75 or 100 pages is prepared annually upon injurious and beneficial insects, and the best measures for farmers and gardeners to adopt with regard to them. This is published every year as part of the report of the Minister of Agriculture and Arts for the Province of Ontario. Seventeen of these have already been issued, and have given to the farming community a large amount of useful information. Our Provincial Government recognizing the good work which was being

*The President's address was delivered in the council chamber of the Ottawa City Hall, on the evening of October 26th.