

I therefore desire to put before you very briefly some ideas which have occurred to me on this subject, in the hope that they may prove of interest.

In the first place full membership must be limited, as in the case of the Royal Society of Canada, in order to make it a mark of distinction, and so a coveted reward for eminence. But how is the selection to be made without probable injustice to some and the certain wounding of the susceptibilities of many?

Do not attempt it. Begin with Associate Members only, which all North American entomologists should be invited to become, and when you have secured a goodly number, say not less than one hundred, have a ballot by mail for a certain number of full members, no one to be chosen as such unless he receives at least a majority of all the votes cast.

Fix a limit to the full membership, but do not try to fill the limit at once; let us feel our way and grow gradually, but once the limit has been reached do not elect any more full members, except to fill vacancies which may occur.

It would be well to set a moderate limit at first, as it would always be possible to vote to enlarge the limit should it be found too restricted, but it would be a very difficult matter to reduce the membership should it be found to have been made too large in the first instance.

On the other hand, it should not be made too small, lest the cry of "clique" be raised against it.

The happy mean should be aimed at in order that no one who had not attained to some eminence should be a full member, so that membership would be considered an honour.

I would also suggest having a limited number of honorary memberships to be voted to men of eminence in the science, but who through age or infirmity were no longer able to continue active scientific work.

No question of amateur or professional should enter into the matter. An amateur who attains to eminence in the science is, I claim, more entitled to honour than a man to whom it is a profession by which he earns his living.

When a sufficient number of members have been elected, they should come together in an Annual Meeting and organize the Union, electing the first officers, and at this point great care should be taken to secure officers who would be universally acceptable.

The initial stage of every undertaking is often the most critical, and in this case it is most important that there should be no appearance of the Union being especially identified with any one locality, but that all sections of the continent should be fairly represented.