

THE DISASTROUS OCCURRENCE OF *VANESSA CALIFORNICA* IN CALIFORNIA AND OREGON DURING THE YEARS 1911-1912.

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The interesting note of Mr. J. B. Wallis on the occurrence of this species at Peachland, British Columbia, in 1912, as given in the "Canadian Entomologist" for December, 1912, comes in very appropriately with the notes and observations made by correspondents of this Bureau, at Lakeview and Waldo, Oregon, and Willow Ranch, California. As the Bureau of Entomology is not likely to publish on this species in the near future, the information here given may be useful in case there should be a re-occurrence of these caterpillars during the summer of the present year.

Our first report of injuries by these caterpillars came from Mr. T. V. Hall, of Lakeview, Oregon, under date of July 27, 1911. Mr. Hall states that there had suddenly appeared in his neighborhood a worm which had taken almost the entire alfalfa crop. "Also has entirely destroyed the prospects for seed, which usually brings in to the farmers of this neighbourhood about \$40,000 annually. The worm is from one-half to one inch in length and slender; perhaps 1-8 to 1-12 in thickness, brownish color and sleek appearing surface. It destroys the small tender alfalfa entire. The more mature growth it takes all but the fibre. This worm travels in vast armies. It almost seems as though the ground were in motion when they are in motion. The oldest settlers here state that nothing of the kind has ever appeared here before. This history reaches back at least forty years. We would like well to learn of some method for their destruction, or some way of preventing a repetition of the past, for they have caused a total loss to the year's crop."

The next report came from the same locality, under date of August 25, 1911, from Mr. A. J. Swift, who sent two specimens of these butterflies, which, he says, had been produced in his locality in enormous numbers during that month. Mr. Swift's further statements relative to this occurrence are given in his own words. "So far as known, this butterfly has never occurred here before, or at least in such small numbers as to have escaped comment.

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