

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Nova Scotian Institute of Science

SESSION OF 1945-46
(Vol. XXI, Part 4)

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

F. Ronald Hayes

(Read October 10, 1945)

This occasion marks the close of the 83rd annual session and the beginning of the 84th. It is my privilege to present a brief review of the Institute's year.

One of the duties devolving on the President at this time is happily light. None of our members has died during the year.

In the period under review, four ordinary members and eleven student members have been elected to the Institute. The total membership now stands at 124.

In addition to the Annual Business Meeting there have been five Ordinary Meetings at which the average attendance was 27. On March 12th a well attended Extraordinary Meeting was held at which an address "The Development of Modern Meteorology" was delivered by Mr. R. A. Hornstein, M. A., Meteorologist-in-Charge, Halifax District Forecast Office. The address, which was given with charm and skill was followed by a lively question period.

At the ordinary meetings fourteen papers were presented, embodying work by seventeen investigators. It is a matter of regret that there were no papers on mathematics, physics or chemistry, for these subjects are considered by some to be the basis of science. It is also unfortunate that no demonstrations were provided and we must all see to it that demonstrations are made available during the coming session. Of the papers presented five were in zoology (including experimental zoology) four were in bacteriological chemistry (fisheries), two each in botany and biochemistry, and one in geology.

We have got behindhand with the publication of the "Proceedings" owing to shortage of labour in the printing office. The Editor is doing everything possible to speed matters up and hopes to have something published during the coming winter.

With the end of the War it is likely that requests will come in from European libraries for sets of the "Proceedings." Since our early

volumes are out of print, the Council has looked into the question of reproducing them by some photo-print method. Such methods, which are represented as attractively low-cost in advertising literature, turned out on investigation to be prohibitively expensive, in fact, probably more costly than straightforward printing. For the present the Council has decided against action in the matter.

In 1931 the President in his Annual Address observed with regret that systematic papers on the flora and fauna of the Province had disappeared entirely from our publication. Since that time the Council has sought with success to restore the "Proceedings" to its former authoritative position in systematics. Already in 1933 the President noted in his Address that our first systematic paper in some years—on the dragon flies of the Maritimes—had been published. In the last decade there have appeared, in addition to faunistic notes, comprehensive papers on aquatic plankton, fishes, birds, mosses, ferns and grasses. The "Proceedings" now in the press contains an extensive, illustrated account of the flora of Nova Scotia.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the generous cooperation of the Officers and Council in administering the Society's affairs. I have to announce with regret that our Corresponding Secretary, Dr. M. K. McPhail is not offering for re-election. In addition to the ordinary duties of office Dr. McPhail has, at considerable cost of time, rescued the back files of the "Proceedings" from threatened oblivion, catalogued them and adequately arranged them. He has also contributed a large measure of sane good humor to Council meetings.

Our good friend Professor W. P. Copp is relinquishing his office as Treasurer, a post in which he has exhibited to the highest degree the required combination of tact and persistence. Under his guidance the Institute's financial position has been steadily strengthened. His soundness and tolerance will be greatly missed at Council meetings.

In conclusion I wish to thank the members of the Institute for honouring me with the highly prized office of President.