

# The Canadian Entomologist.

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WILLIAM E. SAUNDERS.

In this issue of our magazine we have pleasure in presenting to our readers a portrait of the Secretary of the Entomological Society of Ontario for the last fifteen years, MR. W. E. SAUNDERS, who is well known as a prominent member of the fraternity of Canadian naturalists. Mr. Saunders's home is in London, where he was born and where most of his life has been spent. His father, Dr. William Saunders, Director of the Experimental Farms of the Dominion, has always been devoted to the study of the natural sciences, and hence the son's attention was in early years directed to similar pursuits, interest in them being maintained by the making of collections in the different departments. Geology, Botany, Entomology and Ornithology all in turn provided object-lessons for study, training the mind to habits of close observation and filling the leisure of later years with delightful employment.

After a few years of miscellaneous collecting, Mr. Saunders turned his attention more exclusively to Ornithology, and as soon as the use of a gun was permitted he commenced a scientifically-arranged collection of our native birds, showing male and female in summer and winter plumage, with any variations from the types; also the nest and eggs of each species. Year by year the collection is added to, until now it numbers over 1,000 specimens. Mr. Saunders's birds are his intimate friends, and whether in his own house or on the public platform, his "Bird Talks," illustrated with specimens, show to his audience that he speaks of what he has learnt by personal experience in the fields and woods. His enthusiasm for this study is such that he counts it no hardship to walk miles into the country in time to hear some favourite songster greet the dawn. He has also been known to spend a night in the woods in the depths of winter, just to see what he missed by spending his nights in bed!

About two years ago Mr. Saunders accompanied his father on an official visit to Sable Island, a place he had long wished to go to in order

to see the only known breeding place of the "Ipswich" sparrow. The impressions of this trip were given to the public in an article in one of our local papers, which has since been adapted for some of our scientific magazines. Mr. Saunders was able also to enrich his collection by several specimens of the rare sparrow, as well as some other beautiful birds which have their habitat on that interesting island.

Although Mr. Saunders is kept fully employed in looking after his business interests, he finds a change of work sufficient to afford him the rest he needs; hence, he has employed his leisure time in many pursuits, and while Ornithology may be called his principal "hobby," he has gone rather extensively into gardening and horticulture generally—extensively, considering the size of his lot on Central Ave., but the amount of fruit and flowers there produced is a surprise and pleasure to all his summer visitors. His well-known love for these pursuits and his knowledge of horticulture generally has occasioned his recent election to the chairmanship of the committee who have in charge the care of the street trees in London.

Mr. Saunders received his education principally in London, though two or three years were spent in boys' colleges elsewhere. As it was considered best for him to enter the drug business so long conducted by his father, he was sent for two years to the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, where he graduated with the highest honours. Soon after his return to London he was taken into partnership with his father, but on the latter being appointed Director of the Experimental Farms of the Dominion, Mr. Saunders retired from the retail business and entered into the wholesale exclusively.

On the establishment of the Western University he was appointed to the chair of Chemistry, which he held until the claims of his own business forced him to relinquish the position.

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We regret to learn that the Entomological Society of Belgium has recently lost its venerable President, DR. PIERRE-JULES TOSQUINET, retired Inspector General of the Health Department of the Army, Officer of the Order of Leopold, and honoured with the Civil Cross of the First Class and also the Military Cross. He died at Saint Gilles, October 28th, 1902, in the 78th year of his age.