

Harold (Col. Hefte, vol. V, p. 124, 1869). LeConte in the original description, does not mention a blue form, but gives the colour as "æneus subnitidus." Horn in the above Revision places all of these forms as synonyms of *politus* Say, in which he says, "The difference of colour has given rise to several names which do not seem worthy of retention, even as varietal names, inasmuch as the intergrading of colour is so gradual as to render it impossible to separate them." At the time Horn wrote his paper on this genus very little was known of their food habits, but as the habits of these insects become better known, and where large series have been reared, the colour seems to be quite constant, so it will be necessary to restore some of the old names.

TOM WILSON.

In the full vigour of his energetic life and while carrying out his duties as Inspector of Indian orchards, Mr. Tom Wilson was burnt to death on March 6th, 1917, when the Quahalla Hotel at Hope, B.C., was totally destroyed by fire.

Few men were more widely known or more universally liked in British Columbia than Tom Wilson, whose extensive knowledge of the natural history of the province, and particularly of the flora, was at the service of all students and nature lovers.

He was born at Mussleburgh, Scotland, on July 25th, 1856. As a young man he learned horticulture and forestry, and at the age of 22 was Foreman in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh. Two years later he went to India where he spent six years. Repeated attacks of fever compelled him to return to Scotland, but in 1885, a few months after his return, he came to Canada. After a varied experience in railroad construction, farming and orchard planting he reached Vancouver, B.C., in 1896, and later was appointed as Fruit Inspector in the Provincial Department of Agriculture. In 1900 he was appointed Superintendent of Fumigation at Vancouver, B.C., by the Dominion Government, and in 1906 additional duties as Inspector of Indian Orchards were assigned to him. In 1911 he was relieved of his duties as Superintendent of Fumigation in order that he might devote his entire time to the work in the Indian orchards, an important section of the work of the Entomological Branch. To this work he devoted himself

wholeheartedly. At first his duties consisted in cleansing the Indian orchards, or one might say with greater exactness, the fruit trees on the Indian reserves in British Columbia. From this the work developed under his guidance until the Indians were not only growing excellent fruit but were learning to pack their fruit in the approved fashion, and in many reserves young orchards were being planted. Mr. Wilson wrote an account of the work in the Indian orchards in *The Agricultural Gazette of Canada*, October, 1916. (Vol. 3, No. 6, pp. 856-860.) The Indians and those gentle Sisters who teach the Indian children will miss him.

During his thirty odd years in British Columbia he acquired an extraordinary knowledge of the trees, plants and insects of the province, and long before the establishment of ecology as a special study he had especially interested himself in questions relating to plant distribution and association. He was always connected with the promotion of entomological work in British Columbia, and in 1912 was President of the Entomological Society of British Columbia, to the *Proceedings* of which he contributed papers from time to time. In conjunction with his friend A. H. Bush he made an excellent collection of the insects of British Columbia, and last year, after the death of his old friend on military service in France, he presented the collection to the Entomological Branch, where it now forms part of the Canadian national collection of insects.

He occupied a unique place in the small band of workers in British Columbia. His memory and his hands were at the service of all students of the subjects that he himself so diligently studied. Mountain, forest and the open country were his laboratory, and a journey in his company was a delightful experience. Nothing escaped his attention, and one felt the refreshing effect of a mind that had been stored in the open. His sister, in a recent letter to me, writes: "He enjoyed life so thoroughly lately, was so whole-hearted in his pursuits that one did not think of him as in his 62nd year. His splendid constitution, the open air life and the intense love of his work, together with the close touch with nature, all combined to make the years pass lightly. . . ." His tragic death has removed a keen student of nature, a staunch friend and a faithful servant of the State.

C. GORDON HEWITT.