

EDITORIAL SECTION

THE PLACE OF SWANS

Just 100 years ago, in 1854, a portion of a swampy, mosquito-infested sandbar known as the Place of Swans ("Absecon" to the Indians), was incorporated under the name Atlantic City, New Jersey.

In May of the same year that Atlantic City was incorporated, 1854, the first "official" entomologist in the United States, Dr. Asa Fitch, became State Entomologist of New York, and, a month later, Townsend Glover became officially associated with the U. S. Government as an entomologist.

These two centenaries, one of a great city, and the other of an important applied science, have more than a casual connection, for it is safe to say that the Place of Swans could never have become the Place of Play as we know it today, a world capital of relaxation and recreation, had it not been for the official acknowledgment, coming the same year of its incorporation, that the control of certain insects was a public responsibility.

And it is significant that in the exact midpoint of that century, 50 years after the founding of the city and of the science, and 50 years ago (in 1904), there appeared Dr. J. B. Smith's monumental report on the mosquitoes of New Jersey, which was in preparation during the long gestation period of publicly supported mosquito control and appeared just in time to be used

as a manual of guidance for those who officiated at its birth.

Other developments followed at intervals so well-timed that we can appropriately celebrate several additional anniversaries in 1954, all involving mosquitoes, and all occurring in New Jersey in or near Atlantic City.

In 1914, that is, 40 years ago, the New Jersey Mosquito Extermination Association held its first annual convention. In 1944, 10 years ago, the Eastern Association of Mosquito Control Workers, which had been sired by the New Jersey Association, enlarged its scope still further and became the American Mosquito Control Association, which became incorporated under New Jersey laws.

Now, on the 100th anniversary of Atlantic City, the 100th anniversary of Official Entomology, the 50th anniversary of official Mosquito Control, the 40th anniversary of the New Jersey Mosquito Extermination Association, and the 10th anniversary of the American Mosquito Control Association, on March 9-12 the two Associations will again convene in Atlantic City. No time could be more appropriate, nor any place more fitting, for these two associations to meet together to hear the swan song of the mosquitoes in the City of the Swans.—D. L. C.

"I come here each year, not for the purpose of talking to you but for the purpose of picking up points. I think nowhere in the world is there as much practical knowledge on the subject of mosquito extermination as exists in the State of New Jersey."—L. O. Howard, speaking at a meeting of the N. J. Mosquito Extermination Association in 1916.