

EDITORIAL SECTION

SHOULD THE AMERICAN MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION BE REORGANIZED?

The rapid growth of the American Mosquito Control Association has now reached a point where it is timely to ask whether its present form of organization should not be changed.

Having started in 1936 as the Eastern Association of Mosquito Control Workers, which in 1941 began publication of *MOSQUITO NEWS*, this Eastern Association grew rapidly until by January, 1944, it had come to include members from 32 of the United States of America and 9 foreign countries. No longer a truly Eastern Association, at the next annual meeting, March 15, 1944, it was voted that the name should be changed to the present American Mosquito Control Association.

At this time little change was made in the old constitution, which provides for a type of organization better suited to a limited area where all of the members can assemble for the transaction of Association business, rather than to a continental area where only a fraction of the membership are likely to attend any particular meeting, and where actual member participation cannot be adequately provided for, no matter how meetings may be shifted from region to region within the larger area.

Further growth of the Association, the membership of which now comprises all or a substantial proportion of the members of the many local mosquito control commissions and even of several regional associations, would seem to make a different type of organization more appropriate to its present status.

For this reason, the question has been raised whether a federal, or republican, or representative type of organization might not be more in order. Various other national societies and associations have found one or another form of this general type

of organization well suited to their needs.

Several possibilities have been mentioned. Final power, of course, would be vested in the membership for all matters of fundamental importance. But with the area covered by the Association divided into six or seven regional areas, each with a Regional Director who would be a Regional Vice President of the National Association, this small group of Regional Vice Presidents, together with the National President, the First and Second Vice Presidents, and the Treasurer, might constitute a representative policy-making National Council; and this National Council, together with the chairmen of the ten or twelve standing committees, might constitute the Board of Directors. If each standing committee might then include a member from each regional area, this should afford ample provision for the orderly flow of information, action, responsibility, and authority between the general membership and the National Council.

Standing committees might be something like the following:

1. Committee on Current Information Relating to Mosquito, and Other Arthropod-Associated Health Hazards.
2. Committee on Current Information Relating to Malaria Control, Including Other Arthropod-Borne Diseases.
3. Committee on Current Information Relating to Vector Control, Including Related Pest Species.
4. Committee on Current Information Relating to Other Pests Controllable Only by Community Action.
5. Committee on Finance, Including Endowment Fund.
6. Committee on Administration of Industrial Research Fellowships.
7. Committee on Legislation.

8. Committee on Public Information.
9. Committee on Relations with Other Technical, Scientific, Educational, and Public Service Agencies.
10. Committee on Publications.
11. Committee on Membership.
12. Committee on Sale of Advertising Space in MOSQUITO NEWS, or in Such Other Publications as Might Be Undertaken.

A small National Council would permit more frequent meetings for consideration of special problems as they may arise, perhaps with some provision for equalization of travel costs. At least two such meetings should be held each year. An annual convention, preferably with at least one day devoted to a paper-reading session, would be attended by voting delegates or proxies from individual commissions and the like. The number of such voting delegates could be allocated on some representative per capita basis.

Regional conferences, inspection trips, and the like would be encouraged; and Regional Directors would be responsible for looking after and promoting the interests and activities of the Association in their respective areas.

Members of the National Council might be elected for two-year terms, possibly with one re-election permitted, and with

terms staggered to provide for continuity of policy.

An executive staff might be provided to look after routine affairs of the Association, perhaps comprising an Executive Secretary, a Comptroller, and an Editor of MOSQUITO NEWS. Officers of the Executive Staff, while presented for re-election periodically, would usually be retained as long as they might be willing to serve, or as long as their services were acceptable. While all officers now serve on an unpaid, volunteer basis, it is hoped that the Association may eventually be able to maintain a National Headquarters with a paid Executive Secretary and staff; and that these and other officers of the Association required to travel, may be given a travel allotment.

Provision might also be made for special-interest sections, such as Medical, Engineering, Entomological, Public Health, and the like, which might be represented on the National Council.

Appropriate officers will probably meet in the near future to consider Association problems; and at the same time may consider this, and other measures which might be in the best interests of the Association. Ideas and suggestions from interested members addressed to the Secretary will be welcome.