

Epilogue

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In 1908, two years before the first International Congress of Entomology would take place in Brussels, Belgium, Henry T. Fernald, head of the Department of Entomology at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, published an essay in the journal *Popular Science Monthly* to mark 75 years of economic entomology in America (Fernald 1908). Titled "The Future of Economic Entomology," the essay set out to review past accomplishments of the field and to "consider its future possibilities."

Today, "future possibilities" are called "grand challenges," and most of those Fernald identified 112 years ago sound eerily familiar. He noted that "the development of speedy commerce has enabled many of the most serious pests of foreign lands to...establish themselves here... developing destructive powers greater than in their native land." He also pointed out that

Agriculture is becoming more intensive, larger areas are being tilled, furnishing a more abundant and easily discovered food supply, and in spite of a healthy growth of interest in preserving our insectivorous birds, it is questionable if the developments connected with an increasing density of population will permit their preservation in any great numbers for more than another century.

The language may be a little more florid, but today's challenges of invasive species, agricultural intensification, and loss of biodiversity are clearly recognizable. The path to success in meeting these challenges recommended by Fernald also sounds familiar: