

SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ALBERTA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

The meeting was called to order by President Dr. George, being assembled in the old school at Red Deer on the 27th day of November 1907, at 3 p.m.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

It is with great pleasure I am able to welcome you to the second annual meeting of the Alberta Natural History Society, and incidentally to welcome to Red Deer those of you who do not reside here. As a society I beg to state that we are alive and, I hope, vigorous; we have many things to encourage us although we have a few obstacles against us. You know it is hard work for the first few years to keep a society of this kind, and in such a vast territory as the Province of Alberta, a live and flourishing, and it is a question of work all the time; the chief burden being upon the shoulders of a few but I assure you for my part it is a labour of love.

Now one of the greatest disappointments I have had this year is the inability of reading to you the annual reports of the Natural History Society for 1905 and 1906 due to the late printing of the reports of the Department of Agriculture for those years; as I think when those reports are spread through the province we shall have many more members for the society and recruits for the ranks of nature lovers and observers.

The second disappointment was the non-receiving of a grant from the Alberta Government. I asked for \$100.00. but we did not get it, either because the Government had so many things to see to, or that the aims of the society were not considered important enough; but water will wash away a stone and I hope by being diligent and keeping our work before the people of the province we may get a small grant in time. This is not of such a very great moment to us, but would greatly help fulfill my ambition of seeing a branch of the interesting and useful society in every electoral district of Alberta and the establishment of museums in the chief towns of those districts to bring the people at large in contact with the animals, birds, insects, and plants of their immediate neighbourhood and so getting to know what are good for the country and what inimical. Another thing I would like to see looked after is the history of this province; events happen so quickly here and are forgotten and if no record is kept authentic dates, etc., are wanting and- only oral tradition is left which in future years is regarded as mythical. Even in my short life in Alberta I have seen many changes.

One more point I have adverse to our progress is the treatment we have received from the secretary of the late Territorial Natural History Society, that gentleman not seeing fit to answer letters sent him. There are a few dollars in that society that rightly belong to us and we are unable to obtain any information about it. This is neither courteous nor businesslike of the gentleman in question.

The points to encourage us are the many people we have got who are letting us know that they are interested in the work, and I have the last two years received very many letters giving me information and asking questions which I have always answered to the best of my knowledge. It might surprise some of you to know that after 18 years of study in Alberta on these hues how little I know myself and I feel that a lifetime devoted to these pursuits is all too short to get even a slight knowledge of what goes on around us in the natural history world. We have two branches of the society, viz., Innisfail and Red Deer. I had hoped to get another formed this year, but owing to my removal from Innisfail and getting settled down in Red Deer I have been unable to get another branch started but will try and do so next year.

They have formed a Historical Society in Edmonton; I was put on the executive committee, but the only communication I have received was a notice to attend a meeting at Edmonton and it was impossible for me to go. If I only had their prospectus I could judge whether amalgamation with that society would be the best thing for us or not.

Now I will bring my few remarks to a close by asking the presidents of the two branches, Innisfail and Red Deer, to read their reports, after which we will hear the report of the secretary-treasurer of the provincial society. Thanking you for the honour you have done me in electing me your president for the last two years, I will now proceed to the business of the meeting.

Letters were read from A. Mitchell, Esq., of Edmonton; N. B. Sanson, Esq., of Banff, and W. Geary, Esq., of Innisfail, regretting their inability to be present at the meeting.

Report of the Innisfail Branch.

On behalf of the Innisfail Branch No. 1, I beg leave to report as follows: Since last annual meeting, November 9, 1906, the following meetings have been held: January 11, 1907, at Dr. George's museum with a good attendance. After business had been transacted, Dr. George read a very interesting and instructive paper on the weasels of Alberta, in which reference was made to the raccoon, weasel, marten, fisher, ferret, mink, wolverine, skunk, badger, and otter, discussing

Report of the Innisfail Branch.

On behalf of the Innisfail Branch No. 1, I beg leave to report as follows: Since last annual meeting, November 9, 1906, the following meetings have been held: January 11, 1907, at Dr. George's museum with a good attendance. After business had been transacted, Dr. George read a very interesting and instructive paper on the weasels of Alberta, in

which reference was made to the raccoon, weasel, marten, fisher, ferret, mink, wolverine, skunk, badger, and otter, discussing manners, habits, characteristics, differences in formation, special means of offence and defence, etc.

February- 8th, 1907, at the museum. After routine, president W. Geary gave a talk on " Bird Nesting, " referring to habitat of birds, methods, results, etc., giving many instances from some twelve years' experience as a collector, showing its influence for health, the improvement of powers of observation, love of nature and the beautiful. Dr. George supplemented these remarks by a short talk on the nesting habits of the whiskey jack.

March 8th, 1907, at the museum. After routine, there being no special programme, the president read a clipping from the Ottawa Field Naturalist on a disaster that had overtaken migrating birds during a severe storm on Lake Huron in October, 1906. It was written by W. E. Saunders, Esq., of London, Ont., and described how he had found over 1800 dead birds representing about thirty species during a walk of two or three miles along the shore near Kettle Point.

A general discussion followed.

April 12th, 1907, at the institute. After business had been transacted secretary F. S. Carr, B.A., read a short paper on "The snails of Alberta," illustrated by drawings and specimens. This proved most interesting and brought out many questions and a hearty vote of thanks. This was the last meeting held, and although I have made several attempts to hold a meeting nothing has been done.

However, an effort will be made to resume the work of the branch at an early date, when it is expected work will be resumed.

The branch has suffered severely by the removal of Dr. George, President of the Alberta Society, and his estimable wife, who was our valued vice-president. This took place in June and was followed shortly after by the removal of our secretary-treasurer, F. S. Carr, B.A., to Edmonton. The removal of three such active and enthusiastic members within so short a time has temporarily crippled our branch, therefore this report is not so full and interesting as it otherwise would have been.

W. Geary,
President.

It was thereupon moved by Captain Keast and Mrs. George, and carried, that the report of the Innisfail Branch be received and filed.

Upon motion by Mr. McVicar and Mr. Fiske, it was ordered: That the Innisfail secretary-treasurer be written to, asking for his report of their branch as early as possible for publication.

Report of the Red Deer Branch.

The members of the Red Deer Branch of the Alberta Natural History Society have much pleasure in presenting their annual report for 1906 and 1907. At the regular meeting held June 1st, the Rev. Benj. Goodfield read a paper on "The Common Fly," which was interesting and instructive. There are 16 members in good standing in the Red Deer Branch. B. F. Boyce, B.A., paid his fee in Innisfail although a member here, and J. A. Carswell and F. W. Galbraith, editors of the town papers, were made members of the society for their valuable services in publishing meetings and 50 cents for each was forwarded out of the funds of the society to the provincial secretary. That leaves \$13.00 as the amount received by the secretary-treasurer for year ending 31st October, 1907. \$7.50 of this amount was forwarded to the general secretary, Innisfail. The amount paid for cash book, postage, etc., was \$2.35, leaving a balance in hand of \$3.15. At the annual meeting held October 15th, 1907, Canon Hinchchiffe, president, tendered his resignation, which was accepted with regret. The Canon is now living in Chilliwack, B.C. The society has also lost a valuable member in Mrs. Dr. Denovan, who has moved from Red Deer. It was agreed at this meeting for various reasons that the paid members for 1906-1907 be considered as paid members for 1907-8.

Officers for 1907-08:

Hon. President—John T. Moore, Esq., M.P.P.

President, Captain Keast.

Vice-President, Mrs. L. C. Fulmer.

Secretary-Treasurer, John McVicar, Esq.

The above with Mrs. (Dr.) George and Mrs. Tollman form the Executive Committee. This committee will also solicit for new members.

As the secretary-treasurer wished to have his books audited, Mr. George Wilton was appointed auditor.

Dr. George's museum is well worthy of being patronized by Red Deer and the vicinity.

John McVicar,
Secretary-treasurer

Moved by James Jenson and Mrs. George, that the report of the Red Deer Branch be accepted with a vote of thanks to the compilers of the report and that the same be filed. Carried.

Secretary-treasurer's report.

The secretary-treasurer made a report of the finances as follows:

To cash in hand at Nov. 28th, 1906	\$18.14
Six direct subscriptions of \$1.00	\$6.00

One direct subscription of \$2.00	\$2.00
Received from Red Deer Society	\$7.50
Received from Innisfail Society	<u>\$1.00</u>
	\$34.64
By payment for letter paper	\$4.50
Notices for annual meeting	\$1.75
Postage	\$14.00
	<u>\$6.39</u>
Leaving cash in hand	\$28.25

Moved by Captain Keast and Mr. Fiske, that the secretary-treasurer's report be accepted subject to the auditor's report. The next business was the election of officers with the, following results:

Honorary President—Hon. W. T. Finlay, Minister of Agriculture.

Honorary Vice-President—Geo. Harcourt, Esq., Deputy Minister of Agriculture. ,

President—Dr. George.

Vice-Presidents—N. B. Sanson, Banff; A. Mitchell, Edmonton.

Secretary-Treasurer—Mrs. F. H. Tollman.

Executive Committee—F. Dippie, Calgary; F. S. Carr, B.A., Edmonton; F. H. Wolley-Dod, Millarville; James Jenson, Innisfail; K. E. Fiske, Hillsdown.

Specimens of several varieties of lichens were exhibited, 1 sent by N. B. Sanson, Esq., of Banff, but unfortunately the paper on the same intended to be read at the meeting did not arrive in time.

Moved by Capt. Keast and Mr. McVicar, that the next annual meeting be held at Edmonton. Carried.

Moved by Mrs. George and Capt. Keast. that whereas the attendance of certain officers at the annual meeting is almost compulsory, this meeting resolves that the railway fare to Edmonton be paid for the president and secretary-treasurer and the two presidents of the existing branches. Carried.

Moved by Mr. McVicar and Mrs. Fulmer, that J. A. Carswell be auditor for the ensuing year. Carried.

Moved by Mrs. George and Mr. Jenson, that letter paper be printed with the names of the new officers. Carried.

Moved by Capt. Keast and Mrs. George, that the secretary be empowered to get necessary books.

Moved by Mr. McVicar and Capt. Keast, that a vote of thanks be tendered to Mr. Jenson and the secretary-treasurer for the past two years. Carried.

Mr. Jenson briefly responded to the vote of thanks and the meeting closed.

F. H. Tollman,
Secretary- Treasurer.