

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ALBERTA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Hon. W. T. Finlay, Minister of Agriculture.

Sir,—I have the honour to submit herewith the third annual report of the proceedings of the Alberta Natural History Society, for the year 1908. The annual meeting of the society was held in the Council Chambers, Red Deer, November 25th, 1908, Dr. George, president, in the chair.

The minutes of the previous annual meeting were read and adopted as read.

The reading of communications followed, consisting of letters from several members expressing regret at their inability to be present, and wishing the society a very successful meeting.

The correspondence was ordered filed.

The president then gave his annual address as follows:

President's Address.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—It gives me great pleasure to welcome you here tonight, and to speak a few words about the progress of the Alberta Natural History Society, which now has completed its third year of existence. I am not going to trouble you with a long address but there are some points for congratulation and also many points for reformation in the way in which our society is conducted in order to increase both its usefulness and prosperity. In the first place we have to heartily thank the Government at Edmonton for the grant of one hundred dollars that we received this year. Now this grant not only gives us a little pecuniary aid but also it gives us official recognition. It was a matter of the greatest regret that our reports for 1906 and 1907 through an oversight were not published in the annual report of the Department of Agriculture, as I am convinced that if these two reports had been published our society would be better known, and would have members and branches in all parts of the province. According to our constitution we should have held this meeting at the Legislature in Edmonton. but I found I could not get a quorum to meet there, and also that Edmonton has started a natural history society on its own account. I also wish to say that I wrote to the secretary of the Edmonton society asking for information as to what dates their July and August meetings were held in order that I could go up and attend a meeting and bring our society before them that they might join us and form a branch for that district, but as I received no reply whatever I concluded that we were not wanted. As present we have only two branches, Innisfail and Red Deer, and our Red Deer branch has increased in membership and enjoyed many monthly meetings at which valuable papers have been read. We have a good membership and we

put in good reports for 1906 and 1907. but as I previously mentioned they were left out of the provincial report, but this year I expect our report will be printed.

Owing to oversight valuable papers written for our members and written for publication have been lost, but I hope we will keep hammering away and not get disheartened. Our idea is to get a thorough knowledge of the natural history of our great province and then to disseminate this knowledge especially to the farmers, in order to enable them to distinguish friend from foe and thus save the one and destroy the other. I also wish to form a branch in each electoral division of the province, .so that in time each district will have its own local museum and library. As you very- well know each district is somewhat different in its birds, animals, insects and vegetation, and up to now only a very general idea of the interesting objects in this great country is known.

I have several notes of interest to lay before you. One is the increasing number of the eastern Blue Jay. One was shot at Leduc and sent to me by a friend. The very next day Mr. Cassells of Red Deer shot one and both have been mounted. Both Captain Keast and Mr. Bechervaise, of Horn Hill, informed me that they had seen these birds for the last few years, but until I saw the two specimens this year I always thought it was Steller's Jay they had seen. Another note is that a white or albino porcupine was taken south of Innisfail and it is still alive in the hands of its captor. Beavers are on the increase and are reported as doing damage in some places.

Now as to points of reformation in the conduct of our society. Up to now we have had a president and vice-president, secretary-treasurer and an executive committee of six and the presidents of the two branches. The difficulty lies in doing business with the executive committee. As all these gentlemen live many miles away from one another and as all business is done by mail, it takes a long time to get answers. Because of this it is hard to get a meeting of the executive, indeed the whole of them have never yet met. I think we must devise some other way of doing business and I will be glad for suggestions to-day from any member.

There is one point I would like to impress on each member. It is this, that all members endeavour to encourage children to collect and bring in specimens. Teach them to do it in a scientific way. Try also to get farmers to come and ask us questions so that we may not only impart what knowledge we possess but also learn more ourselves. I also would like to see observers in every district making notes the year through of what they personally see, especially the dates of arrival and departure of birds. I would like to see in the chief town of all our electoral districts a museum devoted to local birds, animals, plants and indeed all objects of nature captured in that district.

Another point to be discussed is the membership fee. Many of us think fifty cents per annum enough and want this put to the vote of this meeting.

I am sure the society misses very much the presence and counsel of our esteemed founder, Mr. Percy Gregson, of Blackfalds, who is now in England and whom I hope will be able later to return to the province. Also Mr. A. Mitchell who has joined the sister province. We are also sorry that Mr. Janson and Mr. Harcourt cannot be here today. In closing I must thank the society for the honour they have done me in electing me to the office of president. I assure you it has been and is a great pleasure to me to see the society prosper and become an influence for good in the Province.

The next order of business is the reports from the various branches.

Report of Innisfail Branch.

The president's address was followed by the report from the President of the Innisfail branch. He reported considerable individual work, and said that he had demonstrated before the pupils of the public school, Innisfail, the proper method of collecting, pressing and mounting plants.

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 the year ending October 31st, of the good work done by the society, and the interest taken by the members, especially Dr. George whose kindness and readiness to assist at all times has been an inspiration.

The first meeting of the present year was held at Dr. George's the 21st of January.

The following new" members were added during the year: Mrs. F. W. Galbraith, H. G. Munro, J. T. Moore, M.P.P., Capt. Cottingham, Principal W. J. McLean, Rev. C. H. Huestis, M.A., Mrs. Wanless, Mrs. Root, Rev. C. W. G. Moore, Mrs. R. L. Gaetz and Mrs. G. W. Green.

The executive, Dr. George, convener, were authorized to draw up a constitution for this branch. Later in the year 100 constitutions were printed and distributed among the members.

Dr. and Mrs. George invited the members to visit the museum, and a profitable and instructive evening was spent.

The second meeting of the society was held at Dr. George's museum, February 18th. At this meeting Dr. George gave an interesting talk on woodpeckers, giving their difference, also different varieties. Those present enjoyed a treat.

The third meeting of the society was held March 17th at Mrs. Tallman's. At

this meeting the society decided to take a trip down the Red Deer River to visit the canyon, and other interesting points. Mr. Munro was appointed to give a talk on his observations regarding this trip. Miss Cole gave an interesting and useful talk on birds' nests for which she received a hearty vote of thanks.

The fourth meeting was held at Miss Cole's on the 28th of April. At this meeting Mr. Munro gave an interesting word-picture of beautiful scenery in connection with the excursion down the river. Mrs. Tallman gave an interesting talk on the formation of the different kinds of rock noticed on the way. Mrs. Wanless was appointed to prepare a paper at the next meeting. Subject to be left to herself.

The secretary was instructed to write to the town papers stating that the society would be pleased to identify any specimens of weeds or other plants which farmers might bring to it for identification.

The last meeting of the executive was held at Mrs. Cassell's on the 16th of June. Rev. Moore read a paper full of humour, on his trip across the Atlantic, and gave an interesting talk on the frogs, snakes, and gophers of Alberta. Several took part in the discussion.

There were sixteen members last year, Mrs. Dr. Donovan and Canon Hinchcliffe having moved away. Ten new members were added since last annual meeting, making twenty-four members for this branch.

Red Deer Branch,
President Captain Keast,
Secretary-Treasurer John McVicar,

The personnel of the executive was then discussed with the result that it was the consensus of opinion that the members of the committee should be somewhat centrally located for convenience of meetings. It was moved by Messrs. Geary and Fiske that the executive committee consist of seven members besides the other officers, six of whom should reside within forty miles of the president's place of residence. Carried.

It was decided that the initiatory membership fee be \$1.00, one-half of which should go to the branch to which the member belongs, and thereafter the yearly fee be 50c, all of which should go to the branch.

Dr. George referred to the annual reports and said that the only means of keeping the membership, scattered as it was, in touch with the society was by having the proceedings of the annual meetings printed so that the members may thus be kept informed of the work of the society. He regretted that the reports of 1906 and 1907 had not been printed. The following motion was made by Mr. Geary and Rev. C. H. Huestis: "That the Deputy Minister of Agriculture

be communicated with, asking him to return the reports of the Alberta Natural History Society, if not printed, that they may be copied so that the continuity of the history of the society may be preserved." Carried.

Election of Officers.

The election of officers was then proceeded with and resulted as follows:

Hon. President, Hon. W. T. Finlay, Minister of Agriculture, Edmonton.

Hon. Vice-President, Geo. Harcourt, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Edmonton.

President Dr. Henry George. Red Deer.

Vice-Presidents V. K. Fiske, Hillsdown. Mrs. W. Geary, Innisfail.

Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. F. H. Talhman, Red Deer.

Assistant Secretary Miss Mina Cole, Red Deer.

Executive Committee.

Rev. C. H. Huestis, Red Deer.

W. J. McLean, Red River.

J. Jenson, Innisfail.

? Sanson, Banff.

F. H. Wooley-Dod, Millarville.

Mrs. Dr. George. Red Deer.

Mrs. Wanless, Red Deer.

The president said that the expenditure of the provincial grant had been brought before the executive committee and it had been decided to expend it in forming branches of the society in each town, and to make a grant to each such branch for the purpose of enabling them to procure a nucleus of a library on natural history. Ten dollars was granted to each branch now in existence for the above purpose.

The president also explained that, as it had been impossible to get a quorum of the officers to go to Edmonton to attend the annual meeting, he had, with the acquiescence of the executive committee decided to hold the meeting in Red Deer.

It was thought advisable to leave the choice of the place of the next annual meeting to the executive committee and a motion was made to that effect by Mrs. George and Mrs. W. Geary, and carried unanimously.

Moved by Mrs. George and W. J. McLean, that a vote of thanks be tendered

Miss Bower for assisting the secretary during the year. Carried.

Moved by Rev. C. H. Huestis and W. J. McLean, that the secretary be instructed to convey the thanks of the members to the mayor for the use of the fire hall for the annual meeting. Carried.

The convention then adjourned. After adjournment the members were served with a sumptuous banquet at the English Cafe, and a very pleasant hour was spent in discussing topics bearing on the work of the society.

List of Members.

Allen, Rev. W. F., Innisfail.
Allen, Mrs., Innisfail.
Archer, F. W., Esq., Innisfail.
Boyce, B. F. W., B.A., Red Deer.
Bredin, F., Esq., M.P.P., Edmonton.
Gushing, The Hon. W. H., Edmonton.
Bulyea, The Hon. G. H. V.,
Lieutenant
Governor, Edmonton.
Chisholme, B. J., Esq., Crossfield.
Carswell, J. A., Esq., Red Deer.
Cole, Miss Mina, Red Deer.
Dippie, F., Esq., Calgary.
DeVeber, The' Hon. D. G., Senator,
M.D., Lethbridge.
Donovan, Mrs. E., M.D., Victoria.
Fream, S. P., Esq., Innisfail.
Fream, E. J., Esq., Innisfail.
Fulmer, Mrs. Jj. C, Red Deer.
Fiske, R. E., Esq., Red Deer.
Garrett, C, Esq., Calgary.
Geary, Wm., Esq., Innisfail.
George, Dr. Hy. M.R.C.S., Red Deer.
George, Mrs. (Dr.), Red Deer.
George, E. S., Esq., Red Deer.
Grant, J. A., Esq., Red Deer.
Goodfield, The Rev. B., B.A., Red
Deer.
Grieve, E. McK., Esq., Innisfail.
Gregson, P., Esq., Blackfalds.
Galbraith, F. W., Esq., Red Deer.
Harcourt, Geo., Esq., B.S.A., Deputy
Minister of Agriculture, Edmonton
Harry, L. C, Esq., Innisfail.
Hudson, A., Esq., Millarville.
Hinchcliffe, Canon, M.A., Chilliwack.
Hill, H., Esq., Red Deer.
Jenson, James, Esq., Innisfail.
Jenson, Mrs. James, Innisfail.
Jenson, T. S., Esq., Innisfail.
Keast, A. E., Esq., Innisfail.
Keast, Capt. J. W., Red Deer.
Lumb, F. v., Esq., Nanton.
INIackay, W. C, Esq., Calgary.
Malcolm, H. A., Esq., Innisfail.
Malcolm, C, Esq., Innisfail.
Membery, Dr. G. G., M.D., Innisfail.
Monro, Esq., Edmonton.
Moore, J. C., Esq., Red Deer.
Moore, John T., M.P.P., Red Deer.
Nowers, E. B., Esq., Innisfail.
Oldham, F. M., Esq., Innisfail.
Onsum, T. G. Esq., Innisfail.
Oliver, The Hon. Frank, Minister of
the Interior, Ottawa. Playle, Mrs.,
Innisfail.
Robinson, E., Esq., Stauffer.
Rutherford, The Hon. A. Premier,
Edmonton.
Raine, W., Esq., Toronto.
Rilev, E. H., Esq., M.P.P., Edmonton.
Sanson, N. B., Esq., Banff.
Simpson, John A., Esq., M.P.P.,
Innisfail.
Simpson, Miss A., Innisfail.
Selbv-Walker, Esa., Calgary.
Svkes, The Rev. \V. H., B..4.,
Camrose.
Saunders, B. J., Esq., D.L.S.,
B.A., Edmonton. 250 Department of
Agriculture
Thoinpson, Evan, Esq., Red Lodge.
Tallman, Mrs. F. H., Red Deer.
Warden, W. H., Esq., Pine Lake.
Westland, G. R., Esq., Innisfail.
Wvndham, Lt. Col., Gleichen.
Wolley-Dod, F. H., Esq., Millarville.
Wilton, Ed., Esq., Red Deer.
McVicar, John, Esq., Red Deer.
Munroe, H. G., Esq., Red Deer.
McLean, W. J., Esq., Red Deer.
Cottingham, Capt., Red Deer.

Mitchell, W. A., Esq., Indian Head.
Root, Mrs. G. F., Erskine.
Galbraith, Mrs. F. W., Red Deer.
Gaetz, Mrs. R. L., Red Deer.
Heustis, Rev. C. H., M.A., Red Deer.

Mrs. Wanless, Red Deer.
Moore, Rev. C. W. G., Red Deer.
Greene, Mrs. G. W., Red Deer.
Cassels, Mrs. W., Red Deer.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
Mrs. F. H. Tallman.