

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ALBERTA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

Hon. Duncan Marshall, *Minister of Agriculture*.

Sir,—I have the honour to submit herewith the fourth annual report of the proceedings of the Alberta Natural History Society for the year 1909.

The fourth annual meeting of the society was held in the parlours of the Arlington Hotel, Red Deer, on the evening of November 24th, 1909.

A goodly number of members were present and were called to order by the president. Dr. George.

The minutes of the previous annual meeting were read and confirmed.

Several communications were read from absent members regretting their inability to be present, but expressing their deep interest in the work of the society. Owing to a snow storm in the mountains Mr. N. B. Sanson, of the Government museum at Banff, was prevented from being present.

President's address.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—A year has passed since our last meeting and I beg to welcome you all to this our fourth annual gathering. The very fact of it being our fourth annual meeting shown that we are still working, and though progress may appear slow, yet it is sure, and every year the aims and objects of our society are being talked about throughout the province.

Again we have to thank the Government of Alberta for a renewal of the grant to us also for not only publishing our report for 1907, but also all our reports since our inception. This is a great help to us, as members of the society who do not belong to a branch are enabled to see what the society is doing. The grant enables us to devote all subscriptions from members to the treasuries of the branches to which they belong. This encourages the branches to enlarge their membership roll as the fees thus obtained may be used for buying books or starting local museums. It is my wish to see a branch of this society in every district of the province with a nature library and museum of local specimens. Were this done a complete and perfect natural history could be written. If such a work were compiled from the notes and specimens found in each district it would rank with any of like nature in the world.

I regret to mention that we have lost our honourable president, the Honourable W. T. Finlay, the Minister of Agriculture. He has been most kind to us. This is the first year we have been able to hold meetings of the executive. We have had two meetings, and this is so much better than doing executive work by correspondence alone. To enable this to be done a motion was passed that a sufficient number of the members of the executive shall reside within a certain radius of the home of the president, so that whoever is president will have a quorum within easy reach of the meeting and thus avoid unnecessary travel and expense.

I meant to organize more branches this year and was empowered by the executive to do so, but my professional work has prevented me, nevertheless I endeavoured to form one at Ponoka.

Owing to the expenses of the society not being very great the membership fee has been reduced to fifty cents, as this is a society for acquiring and disseminating useful knowledge, and not for making money. Being a member of the Red Deer Branch I have been enabled to attend and take part in its meetings. I should like to mention that the Family Herald and Weekly Star not only publishes notes on natural history but has made very kindly mention of this society in its columns.

I have not many special notes to offer you, but one I am glad to say was brought to my notice by Mrs. Cassels and is of great interest. I have often deplored the great number of wild ducks that are wounded and not recovered and so left to perish. Mrs. Cassels found two specimens in which the wings had been broken but the fractures had healed by nature, so that they could again fly and enjoy life, until eventually killed for the table.

I am glad to see so many members and new-friends present this evening and hope this meeting will result in a large addition to our membership. I would again suggest that members carry a little vest pocket note book, have a daily journal at home in which to enter all they have observed during the day, and that their notes be read at the monthly meetings. One of our members, Mr. Wilton, has gone to the woods for the winter and is unable to be

present tonight. He promised to take daily notes, commencing the first day of January. I wish I could have the bird migration notes from every district in the province next year—notes taken by one and all, as to the arrival and departure of the birds. This is one way of teaching people the different kinds of birds, and noticing what are plentiful one year and scarce another year.

Edmonton has a natural history society of its own. I wish it were a branch of this society, but if not I hope it will be courteous enough to send us some of its reports. I wish Calgary, Macleod, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat would take up the work. If distances were not so great I would be very glad to visit all these points.

I thank you very much for the honour you have done me by making me your president for so many years in succession. My wish is to see the society prosper and become more useful year by year.

At the close of his address Dr. George made a presentation of a handsome volume of Nuttall's "Birds of Canada" accompanied by an address to Captain J. W. Keast, president of the Red Deer branch, as a small token of the appreciation of his faithful work in the interests of the society throughout the year, no matter what the weather he journeyed in about ten miles to preside at meetings and by his genial manner and kindly encouragement has inspired the members to greater effort. Captain Keast replied in a few well chosen words, expressing his great interest and pleasure in the work.

Miss Jennie Keast was also presented with a volume of " Holland's Butterflies," the prize given by the provincial society for the best exhibit of pressed wild flowers, leaves, etc., at the Red Deer fair.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The financial statement of the society was read by the secretary-treasurer showing a balance on hand of \$140.05, the disbursements and receipts being as follows:

##### Receipts.

To cash on hand	\$126.40
To subscription per E. Robinson	\$ 1.00
To subscription per N. B. Sanson	\$0 .50
To Government grant	<u>\$100.00</u>
	\$227.90

##### Expenditure.

By paid expenses of banquet for 1908	\$16 . 50
" paid cheque to Red Deer branch	\$10.00
" paid cheque to Innisfail branch	\$ 10.00
" paid stationery	\$1.00
" paid typewriting	\$ 2. 00
" paid stamps and envelopes	\$3 . 75
" paid stamps	.50
" paid letter heads and slips for agricultural reports	\$6.25
" paid grant to Red Deer branch	\$25.00
" paid Dr. George trip to Ponoka to organize branch	\$8.50
" paid stationery for annual banquet	\$1.00
" paid Mrs. Wanless for expense in preparing	
Natural History Exhibit	<u>\$ 3.35</u>
Balance	\$140.05

Statement received and adopted. \$227.90

#### REPORT OF THE RED DEER BRANCH.

I beg to submit the following report for the Red Deer Branch of the Natural History Society:

On November 28th, 1908, the society met at the City Fire Hall. The following officer bearers were elected for the ensuing year:

Hon. President .....Dr. Clarke, M.P.  
Hon. Vice-President..... John T. Moore.  
Hon. Vice-President .....G. F. Root.  
President .....Captain J. W. Keast, Red Deer.  
Vice-President..... John McVicar, Red Deer.  
Secretary-Treasurer..... H. G. Munro, Red Deer.

The following members were added to the executive: Mrs. Dr. George, Mrs. Cassels and Mrs. Tallman. Messrs. Carswell and Galbraith, editors of the News and Advocate respectfully, were elected honorary members. The roll of members at present stands at thirty-nine, an increase of about twelve.

The financial report for the year is as follows:

Stationery, stamps, etc	\$4 .90
Library books, Old Red Sandstone	\$ 1.25
Butterfly book	\$4.00
Subscription for Family Herald and Weekly Star	\$1.00
Livery bill for society's field day	<u>\$12.50</u>
	\$23 . 65
Amount on hand in Imperial Bank	\$32.05

This year has been marked by a steady contribution of valuable papers from the various members on a variety of subjects of immediate importance and interest, among which might be mentioned

Birds.....By Miss Cole.  
Birds 1 have met..... By Mrs. Cassels.  
Structure of Birds..... By Dr. George.  
Botany. .... By Mrs. Root.  
Science of Minerals..... By Mrs. Mclean.  
Geology, the origin of plants..... By Mrs. R. L. Gaetz.  
The structure of the earth .....By Mrs. F. H. Tallman.  
Noxious weeds.....By Capt. Keast.

One important feature must not be overlooked, namely the encouragement given to the school children for the study of Natural History. The society offered prizes for the best collection of pressed wild flowers, etc., at the Red Deer fair. The first prize took the form of a handsome book of butterflies and was awarded to Miss Jennie Keast for an elegant well assorted and complete exhibit.

The society also took a step forward this year in the introduction of a natural history department at the Red Deer fair. It contained a large assortment of weeds, grasses, flowers, etc., and was very well superintended by the president of the society assisted by Mrs. Dr. George whose book of hand painted wild flowers of Alberta was a prominent feature. The interest shown by visitors in the exhibit well repaid for the trouble taken.

This report should not close without a reference to the society's outings, or field days. This year has two such days on record, the first took place on March 6th, the second on June 12th. As a means of enlarging our understanding and appreciation of nature these journeys were found fruitful and profitable, but as it is not my work to give details on this subject, I append the printed reports of same from the local press.

H. G. Munro,  
*Secretary- Treasurer.*

#### *Election of Officers.*

Election of officers for the year was proceeded with and resulted as follows:

Hon. President, Hon. Duncan Marshall, Minister of Agriculture.

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

President—Dr. Henry George, Red Deer.

Vice-President—R. E. Fiske, Red Deer; Mrs. W. Geary, Innisfail.

Secretary-Treasurer—Miss J. C. McKinnon, Red Deer.

*Executive Committee.*

Principal W. J. McLean, Red Deer; Inspector, B. F. W. Bryce. Red Deer; N. B. Sanson, Banff; Mrs. Tallman, Red Deer; Mrs. George, Red Deer; Mrs. Wanless. Red Deer; Mrs. Root, Red Deer; Rev. C. W. G. Moore, Red Deer.

Under the head of new business, Mr. Geary offered the notice of motion read at the executive meeting Oct. 29th, 1909. He gave as his reason that if the annual meeting be held in July an annual field day might be held, after which the members could give the result of their observations, and also make investigations as a body.

Mrs. George moved an amendment that the old date be retained. This brought up a lively discussion which resulted in Mr. Geary withdrawing his motion, which was replaced with the following:

On motion of Mrs. George and Mrs. Fiske, that at our first executive meeting a field day be decided upon to be held some time during July.—Carried.

Mr. McLean, principal of the High School, brought up the question of issuing a book on the flora of Alberta. After some discussion it was moved by Mr. Munro, seconded by Mr. Boyce, that the matter be brought to the attention of the executive at their first meeting in 1910.—Carried.

Moved by Mrs. George, seconded by Mr. Geary, that the Secretary-Treasurer get the usual official letter heads printed.—Carried.

The meeting was then adjourned.

The business meeting was preceded by a banquet held in the Arlington Hotel dining room, to which forty-five guests and members sat down.

Julia C. McKinnon.  
*Secretary- Treasurer.*