

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ALBERTA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

Hon. Duncan Marshall, *Minister of Agriculture.*

Sir,—I have the honour to submit herewith the fifth annual report of the proceedings of the Alberta Natural History Society for the year 1910.

The fifth annual meeting of the Alberta Natural History Society was held at Red Deer on November 30th, 1910. The President, Dr. George, called the meeting to order, and asked the secretary to read the minutes of the last annual meeting, which was done and the minutes adopted.

President's Address.

The president gave his annual address, welcoming the members very heartily.

The following is a summary of it:

Ladies and Gentlemen,—This is our fifth annual meeting and my address this year will be necessarily short. Several executive meetings were held during the year and they were well attended. The proposed branch at Ponoka fell through owing to Doctor Branden leaving that town.

In February last I gave an address before the members of the Edmonton Natural History Society, with the result that a branch for Edmonton was organized. A branch has also been formed at Erskine, so that now there are four branches, Innisfail, Red Deer, Edmonton and Erskine. A natural history society was formed at Calgary this year but, though asked to form as a branch of the Alberta Society, they preferred to have a local one for Calgary. This is a great pity, but it is hoped they will join the provincial association in the near future. The Red Deer branch has started a library and museum and the branch soon hopes to have a proper place in which to store valuable papers and collections and to hold their monthly meetings

I thank you very much for the honour you have done me in electing me your president for the last five years. I think now it is time someone else was elected to that office.

I have a few notes of interest to announce to you: The first is an owl's nest. A boy found an owl's nest and reported the find to me. I went with him and was delighted to find the nest and young of the little Arcadian or Saw-whet owl. It was the first I had seen, and was situated in a hole in the stump of a dead poplar tree. The nest was about six feet off the ground.

The next item was the finding of a nest of eggs of the Blue Jay, by Mr.

Robert Keast. I visited the nest and found it situated in a willow. I believe this is the first time that this bird's nest and eggs have been found in -Alberta. Mr. McCeown's "Birds of Canada" does not mention its having been found in Alberta.

Thirdly, Mrs. Cassells found a Bohemian Waxwing nesting in a small spruce tree close to her house. I watched the birds with a glass in order to be sure of identification: these birds I had heard nested in the foot hills near Banff, but this is the first time they have nested in this district to my knowledge.

A boy shot an albino specimen of the Yellow Warbler and sent it to the museum. It is pure white and has been mounted.

Mrs. Cassells also reports seeing two three-toed woodpeckers; very interesting, though I have seen these birds before near Innisfail.

Mr. Gregson reported that, though he had carefully fostered for many years a colony of beavers at Blackfalds on the Blindman River, the Indians had cleaned them out. I noticed in a newspaper that some beaver had started work on Col. Walkers' place east of Calgary. I believe Mr. Gregson has seen one or two back on his old place lately.

Captain Keast had mounted for the Red Deer Museum a specimen of a large grey gopher. This is marked different from Richardson's grey gopher, first its size, second its coloration being much more grey especially about the head, third, the length of its tail. I believe it is called Sage's gopher. Ground-hogs have been more plentiful this year, especially the black varieties. Judge Lees saw a robin very late in October; he was quite sure of its identification. I had the opportunity of listening to two lectures given before the Red Deer Branch, one by Mr. Stansell of Edmonton on "Birds," illustrated by splendid lantern slides; those of the Whiskey Jack and Loon being especially good. The other lecture was by Miss Moodie of Calgary, on "Alberta Wild Flowers," illustrated by pressed specimens, and extremely interesting.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report.

The secretary-treasurer's financial statement was read, as follows:

Receipts.

To balance on hand	\$140.05
" A. Mitchell, subscription	.50
" L. B. Potter	<u>.50</u>
	\$141.05

Expenditure.

By grant to Innisfall Branch, 1909	\$10.00
News Publishing Co., for insertions	3.50
Dr. George, expenses of banquet	3.00
R. E. Fiske, expenses of attending	

annual meeting.	2.00
W. Geary, expenses of attending annual meeting.. . .	3.40
Geo. Henderson, for work on tent	1.50
H. H. Humber, for fountain pen	5.75
Mrs. Ellis, for banquet	22.50
Stationery	1.00
F. W. Galbraith, 50 menu cards,	\$3.00
100 letterheads, \$5.00	8.00
Dr. George, expenses to Edmonton	10.00
J. C. MacKinnon, for typewriting	2.50
Grant to Red Deer Branch, 1910	30.00
Grant to Innisfail Branch, 1910	10.00
Balance on hand	<u>27.90</u>
	\$141.05

Report was accepted.

In the absence of Captain Keast, Mr. Munro, the secretary of the Red Deer branch, read the report of the branch:

Report of the Innisfail Branch.

Mr. Geary, President of the Innisfail Branch, gave the yearly report as follows: I beg to submit for the consideration of yourself and the executive the following report of our branch for the year just about to close. As you are aware we have not been able to hold regular meetings for some time, owing mainly to the removal from the town of some of our most active and enthusiastic members. However, by dint of perseverance, and as an indirect result of the visit of the Alberta Society to us in July last, we have now been thoroughly reorganized, with a membership that will aggregate over twenty. The election of officers at our annual meeting in November resulted as follows: President, Wm. Geary; Vice-President, Rev. M. T. Habershou; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. F. L. Aylesworth; Executive Committee: Mrs. A. E. Keast (Convener), Miss Rankin. F. L. Aylesworth.

Considerable individual work has been done by several of the members, and an effort is being made to tabulate the results.

Our financial statement shows a balance of upwards of \$20. Out of this we still have \$12.50 to pay on a set of the "Standard Library of Natural History," which was bought for the library of the branch. It is pleasing to report that the library now consists of about fifteen volumes.

It is proposed to procure some botanical supplies and a few other working necessities for both field and indoor work.

In closing, allow me on behalf of my branch to express to you and your executive our very great satisfaction and gratitude with respect to your visit on field day last July. It has stimulated us to renewed efforts and I can assure you that we are all looking forward to another day in the field with our Red Deer friends. We hope the next occasion will include also members of other branches of the Association. In this connection I would suggest perhaps a slight change in date for next year, and on our part we will be pleased to show you a different section of our district.

On motion of Messrs. Fisher and Geary, report was accepted.

REPORT OF THE EDMONTON BRANCH.

A written report of the Edmonton branch was read by the secretary.
Election of Officers.

Next item of business was election of officers, which resulted as follows:
Hon. President, Hon. Duncan Marshall; Hon. Vice-President, George Harcourt;
President, Wm. Geary, Innisfail; First Vice-President, R. E. Fisher, Hillstown;
Secretary, Mrs. F. H. Tallman, Red Deer.

Moved by Mr. Jensen, seconded by Mr. Fisher, that owing to the president living in Innisfail the appointment of secretary-treasurer be left over until the first executive, and that the present secretary continue the work until that time.
Carried.

Executive Committee.

Mrs. A. E. Keast, Innisfail; Mr. Jensen, Innisfail; F. S. Carr, Innisfail; Dr. George, Red Deer; Mrs. Wanless, Red Deer; Mr. Sansen, Banff; Mrs. S. Judd, Erskine.

The motion of Mr. Geary and Mr. Fisher, that a hearty vote of thanks be tendered Dr. George for his valued service to the society during his year of presidency, was unanimously carried.

On motion of Mr. Fisher and Mr. Jensen, a hearty vote of thanks was given Miss McKinnon for her services as secretary-treasurer.

Members of the Alberta Natural History Society.

Red Deer.—John A. Grant, J. C. Moore, Capt. J. A. Keast, Robt. Keast, Jennie Keast, Abbie Keast, E. Wilton, Rev. W. G. Moore, John McVicar, Inspector Bovce, H. B. Hill, Mrs. F. Fulman, Mrs. G. W. Greene, Miss Mina Cole, R. E. Fiske, John A. Carswell, F. N. Galbraith, H. G. Munro, John T. Moore, N. J.

McLean, Capt. Cottingham, Rev. C. W. Hucstis, Mrs. A. P. Wanless, Mrs. R. L. Gaetz, Mrs. Cassells. Mrs. G. F. Root, G. Henderson, Clyde Henderson. Ralph Huestis, Percy Smith. Mrs. Capt. Cottingham. Dr. George, Mrs. George. Miss George, Mr. Lyner, E. Mitchener. M.P.P.. Mrs. Gody. Mr. Gody, Mr. Lord, Mrs. Lord, Mrs. J. L. Crawford, Miss Kelley, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Galbraith, Miss J. C. MacKinnon. Innisfail—Wm. Geary, Rev. M. T. Habershou, Mrs. F. L. Aylesworth, Mrs. A. E. Keast. Miss Ranking, F. L. Aylesworth.

Edmonton.—F. S. Carr. Inspector J. A. Fife, Miss Kate Chegwin, J. A. Macgregor. Elen B. Chadwick, J. McCaig. S. S. S. Stansell. Inspector Hill, T. Henderson, Miss Brown. Mr. Setlane, Miss McKee, Miss Osborne, Dr. McQueen, Dr. Revell, Alex. McQueen. Mrs. F. S. Lean, J. M. Shraeck, Miss Beyer, Mrs. J. A. Fife, Mrs. John O. Chatwick. Mr. Walker. Wm. Jones.

Erskine.—Mrs. S. S. Judd (President), S. S. Judd, G. C. Bergman. Mrs. G. C. Bergman. C. B. Morton, Mrs. C. B. Morton, D. H. Lusted, Mrs. D. H. Lusted. Mrs. E. J. Sanders, Mr. Parker, M. Gaughen, B. Wright, Mrs. J. Dew, Miss Archibald, J. C. Turnbull, Mr. Cluterbuck, Jean IB. Archibald.

Julia C. MacKinnon,
Secretary- Treasurer.