

SUB-EXCURSION NO. 7, 14TH JULY.

A VISIT TO THE GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

Undoubtedly one of the most successful sub-excursions which has ever been held under the auspices of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club took place on Saturday afternoon, when, through the kindness of Prof. Wm. Saunders, director, the Central Experimental Farm, in connection with the Department of Agriculture, was visited and examined. A large gathering of members of the club and their friends met at the city Post-office, and taking the busses provided by the excursion committee, soon reached the place of interest which was to form the rendezvous for the afternoon. On their arrival the naturalists were cordially greeted by the genial professor, who, on invitation by the president of the club, Mr. R. B. Whyte, addressed the members, and in a clear manner sketched a general outline of the work performed, and gave interesting details regarding the distribution of the crops, etc., on the farm. Professor Saunders, in company with Mr. Fletcher, the Entomologist and Botanist, and Mr. Hilborn, the Horticulturist, then most courteously piloted the party through the more interesting parts of the farm, pointing out some of the manifold species of plants of especial interest which are being grown and tested. With eagerness and pleasure the various groups of naturalists listened to every word which fell from the lips of these gentlemen. Seed crops from various countries were seen growing in great abundance, and boreal species were particularly noted, as such forms are likely to be best adapted for cultivation in the more northerly regions of Canada. The different varieties of beans, potatoes (seedlings and otherwise), wheat, barley, oats, peas and many other agricultural products, were pointed out and noted, as were also the various kinds of apple, cherry and plum trees. The "shade" or "covering" for pine and other coniferous seedlings was also examined, and the tiny "monarchs of the forest" seen growing in great profusion and doing splendidly. In the garden proper many varieties of small fruits and flowers were seen, as well as many kinds of shrubs and trees. With the kind permission of the director and horticulturist, the excursionists had an opportunity of testing some of the new varieties