

ment of the Smithsonian Institution, at Washington, invited a few of the leading ornithologists of America to meet them in convention at the Museum of Natural History in the Central Park, in the city of New York, on September 26. The meeting was a very pleasant one, as it brought together those of similar tastes, who had for many years known each other by correspondence, and yet had never met. Mr. Mellwirth, of Hamilton, and Mr. Chamberlain, of St. John, N.B., represented the Dominion, and were heartily welcomed by their American cousins. The convention continued in session for three days, the principal business being the formation of an American Ornithologist's Union, with a constitution and by-laws similar to the British Association of the same name. Professor J. A. Allen, of Cambridge, Mass., was elected president; Dr. Elliot Coues, of Washington, first vice-president, and Mr. Robert Ridgway, second vice-president, for the ensuing year. Committees were also formed to report on the migration of birds, on the desirability or otherwise of encouraging the English sparrow, and specially on the nomenclature and classification of American birds. In view of the importance of the work and the enjoyment it had afforded to those who took part in it, it was resolved to have those who had attended this first meeting photographed in a group as the founders of the A.O.U., after which the members reluctantly separated, to meet again in about a year, at such time and place as may be decided on by the council of the union.

THE SHAWINIGAN CLUB GROUNDS.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have read with much pleasure and interest the correspondence of a member of the Shawinigan Club, in the *Star* of the 13th inst., and will coincide with him, that the scenery of the Laurentides are unsurpassed, both in lakes, rivers and forests, abounding with game and fish of all qualities. From what I hear, most of our lakes within thirty or forty miles of Berthier, Rivière du Loup and Three Rivers, are all taken up by sportsmen, who intend keeping guardians over their grounds, and, more than that, stock some of their lakes with the famous land-locked Salmon or *Warrainish*. I see that our American friends and neighbors, who are generally good anglers, have taken up a large share and the balance is secured by Canadians, who are also good in the use of both rod and

gun. The Shawinigan Club deserves praise from every one who love to stimulate outdoor sport, for their exertions so far, in making their place so attractive. They have made wide portages on their grounds, leading to several beautiful large lakes; even ladies can walk over these with ease. I know of several of the fair sex who have patronized the club, and were plucky enough to go through steep portages, and several miles of canoeing without finding the least inconvenience; they have given the *outrig*, and made the club so much more sociable. Their club-house, out-buildings, ice-house and stable are built as log houses, very substantial and durable; occupying about twenty arpents of cleared land fronting on lake Wapizagonke; this year they have already harvested several bushels of grain and vegetables. The club canoes have been well chosen, light and heavy, suitable for portaging and lake use; the Peterboro' coming ahead for swiftness; the bark for lightness, and skills, also for the lake; besides sail boats which can be trusted in heavy weather. I wonder how the canvas canoe would suit; they are now made fifteen feet long, weighing seventy pounds and can carry 800 pounds, and, when folded up, can be carried on one man's head, his hands being at liberty; he can then carry a good deal more with ease. This would help considerably to a party of two, who would like to go straight along. The Peterboro' canoe, and even the bark canoe, after some wear, require two men to carry each of them, and they have often to return to the landing place, to load again what they could not carry at first while portaging; experience will tell. I also understand, the club intends to purchase tents of different sizes, and camping kits with all attachments for camping away from the club house. Guides can always be obtained by writing to St. Elie or Hunterstown, a couple of days ahead. I may mention here, having heard it stated by Mr. Baker, who resides at St. Elie, that the new government road has been cut out from his place to a point called Dufresne, thereby shortening the transit at least six miles to the members who will pass by St. Elie. I have just heard of the very pleasant time that one of the members had lately, under canvas, it being his first visit to the club's sporting grounds. The trip was made from Three Rivers, where one can obtain a double seat d buckboard, with a strong horse to keep pace at the rate of six miles an hour, even through a sandy road,