

The Times Nature Club

Visit to a Swamp.

There is an Colquitz a swamp which was made by beavers. They worked hard in building several dams to block up the little stream that passed down the valley, and the result was a fine little lake, which, as the grass and reeds grew up, became more in the nature of a swamp. Later with the advance of civilization the beaver were destroyed and to-day there are none left.

Two years ago a visit to this swamp showed that several beavers were there, but a week ago there was not the slightest sign of the existence of any quadruped except the pig from the near-by farm. The old dams still do service and all around the swamp may be seen the stumps and trees where the clever little animal had worked.

Red-winged Blackbird.

Although there were not any beaver at the swamp there were other inhabitants, thousands of them both in the water, the air and the surrounding woods. No sooner did we arrive at the banks of the swamp than we were discovered by a red-winged blackbird that in all probability had its nest in the reeds, some of which are unapproachable from the shore without swimming.

It at once gave its peculiar cry, which startled the whole neighborhood and warned everything that there was some visitor present, hawk, or owl, or man, or some other creature that might be a danger. There it hung to a tall reed in the middle of the pond while it uttered its somewhat discordant notes. It was a male bird, for it had the red marks on its wing. We saw several of them but only one female; probably the females were sitting on their nests.

We were looking for ralls' nests but,

squirrel which sat on the snake fence in front of us. I took a snap shot from a few feet away, and then retired to change my plates. While I was doing so the squirrel ran down to the ground, picked up a small fir cone and returning, sat up with the cone in his front paws enjoying the meal. He faced us as he did so, about seven or eight feet distant and his eyes seemed to twinkle with mischief. He waited until I had taken a snap shot and then retired.

A Gallant Defender.

Just before leaving we saw an interesting incident. The blackbirds had been making some noise and this attracted a small sparrow hawk. The bird of prey swooped down toward the blackbird of a city residence when the blackbird at once flew at the hawk and where presumably it had its nest. The blackbird at once flew at the hawk and where presumably it had its nest.

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NEST OF VIRGINIA RAIL TAKEN IN A SWAMP AT COLQUITZ.

although we found the old birds, the search for the nest was unavailing. Every bunch of reeds was carefully hunted through, but with no effect.

Young Ducks.

It was a long walk around the swamp and there was much to notice. On the way up one side, a loud single quack was heard and an answering voice in a lower tone. At the far end we went out on a log toward the old beaver house and, when within a few yards of it, a brood of seven pretty little ducks were seen. A moment later the mother bird flew up and gave the warning cry to the little ones. They crouched quite still among the reeds and although we knew exactly where they were they could not be seen. At the other end of the swamp we saw another duck but whether the same or not we did not know.

May Fly Larva.

While waiting for the ducks we noticed in the water some small creatures moving which seemed to be covered with sticks and straws. These we recognized as the larva of the May flies, or some related species. They were walking up and down the grasses surrounded by their protecting coat, which they had made themselves for the purpose.

There were a number of small birds in the neighborhood. One of them seemed to be some sort of a warbler, but we had never seen one like it before. We did not get sufficiently near to be able to give a good description of it.

Friendly Squirrel.

In passing a farm house on the road in we made the acquaintance of a

POPULAR VICTORIANS WEDDED THIS MORNING

Mr. D. B. McConnan and Miss Locke United in Marriage.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

A very pretty wedding took place this morning at the home of Capt. and Mrs. Locke at the corner of Rockland avenue and Cook street when their daughter, Miss Emily M. was united in marriage to Mr. D. B. McConnan, assistant receiver general.

The ceremony was performed at 9 o'clock by the Rev. Archdeacon Scotwick. The home was prettily decorated for the occasion with spring blossoms, narcissi and other flowers. In the absence of her father, the bride was given away by her brother, Mr. W. Locke.

The bride was very becomingly attired in a smart Princess gown of brown velvet with hat of brown and pink roses. She was attended by her sister, Miss Nettie. The bridesmaid was gowned in a pretty Copenhagen blue cashmere with hat

birds which came so near to both the house and the dog.

Virginia Rail.

The nest of the willow grouse or ruffed grouse, an illustration of which appears in this issue, was photographed at Comox several years ago. The nest as shown was built among dried fern and the old bird when discovered, tried the old trick of falling as if with a broken wing to try to attract attention. The eggs resemble those of a guinea hen, or small brown hen's egg.

The Virginia rail's nest was built among the reeds in a swamp in the neighborhood of Victoria. The nest was built of reeds and was a very fragile affair. It was about a foot or little more from the water. The old birds could not stay away from the nest but kept peeping through the reeds at different places only a few yards from the camera man. The eggs were white with reddish brown spots.

Selection Theory.

Dear Nature Editor: Your correspondent "Wonderer" in the last issue of the Nature Club, has indeed opened up a large question. Protective coloration is the device that many birds, animals and insects use to protect themselves, or rather it is the device of Nature to protect them. The deer is the color of the fern and tree trunks among which he lives, the grouse can scarcely be distinguished from the dry grasses and fern among which he lives, the frog resembles in color and appearance the mud in which it lives, while the tree-toad, adapting itself to the color of the foliage of the trees where it makes its home is green instead of brown. Animals and birds in the far north turn white in winter. This is one instance in which your theory of selection seems to fail. It is difficult to see how selection can be the change of color to suit the seasons. The natural law seems to suit some cases but how are you going to explain the change of color?

Another Wonderer.

(Cannot some reader of the club answer this?—Editor.)

to match and carried enchantress car-nations.

The groom was supported by Mr. Chester Harris.

The gift of the groom to the bride was a handsome hoop pearl ring, and to the bridesmaid, a beautiful gold bracelet. Both of the contracting parties are very popular in the city and were made the recipients of many valuable presents.

After the ceremony a wedding breakfast was served.

The honeymoon will be spent in Vancouver and the Sound cities.

HOW DUNCAN REGARDS C. P. R. HUNTING RESERVE

Duncan, May 8.—Much discussion is being indulged in with regard to Mr. Marpole's plan of making a hunting reserve of all the C. P. R. lands on the B. & N. railway belt. The prevailing opinion here seems to be that such a plan would be against the law unless the lands in question were fenced, and that only crown lands could be so set aside. If the government established a fish hatchery at Cowichan lake it would not be quite fair that the fishing in the river could only be enjoyed by those having a special permit from the C. P. R. The probability is that the people of Duncan do not altogether understand the plan of Mr. Marpole.

ADDRESS ON PLAINS OF ABRAHAM

THEIR SIGNIFICANCE IN HISTORY OF DOMINION

Senator G. W. Ross Descends on Subject Before Canadian Club, Hamilton.

The privilege of hearing one of Canada's born orators brought forth a large and enthusiastic gathering last week at the Royal Hotel, Hamilton, Ont., at the last of the Canadian Club luncheons, which have been so popular this winter. Senator G. W. Ross was the speaker of the evening and his splendid address will long be remembered by those who had the opportunity of listening to him. He spoke for an hour and a half, but there was never a tiresome moment during all that time.

President W. M. McClelland, introduced the speaker in a few words. He took occasion then to thank the members for the liberal manner in which they had taken hold of the luncheon idea. A good deal of excellent work had been accomplished. In introducing Senator Ross to the assembly, Mr. McClelland said that in him the country had a man of sterling integrity, and one in whom every Canadian had reason to feel proud.

Senator Ross was given an ovation on rising to speak, and it was some moments before he was able to proceed with his address. It afforded him great pleasure indeed, he said, to come to this fair city. He commended the Canadian Club on the good work it had accomplished throughout the Dominion, in stirring up patriotism among the people. He was also glad to see the club's interest in the subject of the battle of the Plains of Abraham, which he was to speak of with particular interest to Canada and Canadians. For that reason he said he had carefully prepared the address.

"The National Significance of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham," was the subject of the honorable gentleman's remarks, and he gave hearers a graphic word picture of the relation of the French and English in the development of Canada, from that time to the present day. The partnership between the Norman and Saxon has expanded, declared the speaker, but it was not a popular partnership originally. The French seigneurs were on the ground first, and the English came later. The English, Jacques Cartier came and discovered this country and took everything for the King of France. At that time owned nearly all the then known North America. After Carter came other explorers who took more land for France. With the possession of this land France became busy in its fight with the Indians, and did not make any effort to colonize the country. Then came John Bull, who with his usual hunger for conquests, saw a chance to get a large piece of immense value to the British Empire.

The opportunity presented itself at the time of the Seven Years' war, in which France was engaged with the nation of the continent. England sent out 65,000 men and 277 warships to take possession of the French possessions in North America. An entry was made by way of New York, and the first blow was struck at the fort at Niagara Falls. Many of the forts fell in succession after this, and in 1759 the British army was opposite Quebec. The military campaign of the British was laid out on a large scale, but it must not be understood that the taking of Canada for Britain began and ended with the battle of the Plains of Abraham.

Mr. Ross did not go into the details of the fall of Quebec before the British army, as that was too well known to need any comment. One thing that impressed itself on his mind was the chivalry of the British officers in allowing the French to make an honorable withdrawal. Had Quebec been a city in Europe, said the speaker, it would have been sacked and probably destroyed, but the British General did not allow this to happen, treating the French with full military honors.

At the time of the fall of Quebec there were three classes of French in and about that place. One was the military, then the officials and lastly came the habitant. The soldiers and officials went back to their native country, France; but the habitant, who had been and is now the real backbone of France, remained in this country. Ninety per cent. of the habitants settled on farms on the River St. Lawrence. These people were docile and devoted to the church. It is a fortunate thing, indeed, that the habitant has remained in Canada, as he has grown to fill the Province of Quebec to-day.

When the English first took possession of the Province of Quebec, and could not believe in the administration of English law, and would not accept military law from 1759 to 1804. United States General, that time, was becoming restless under the supposed burden placed on it by the British government, and the British ministers were beginning to realize the fact that something would have to be done if the rest of the continent was going to be preserved for England. In 1774 the Quebec Act was passed. In this act the French received what they were asking for, to a great extent. To the loyal clergy and the habitant of that time is due the fact that Canada exists as one of the contracting nations of the present day, for, had not the Quebec Act passed, great trouble would have followed.

The French were pleased for a while with the terms of the act, but later on again became restless, and in 1791 they felt that they should have their own rights as the rest of the people in the Province and accordingly demanded a parliament. At that time the country was divided into Upper and Lower Canada. There is a right of the act being to separate the two nations now on Canadian soil. That was the position of affairs for

some time. The French were delighted with the act that gave them a separate parliament, and the Upper Canada people, composed largely of U.E. Loyalists, were also delighted, as they had failed to get on with the French. It was at the time of the war of 1812 that the French in this country showed their true worth, and was no doubt a fact that the French helped materially to defeat the United States. There was project to win Canada. Money was spent to assist the government by the French, as well as the English, and the loyalty of the French on this occasion was largely instrumental in the placing of Canada where it is to-day.

In 1841, the provinces were brought together again, making a renewing of the partnership formed in the first place. This time it was based on an equality of representatives in the parliament. It was evident that the union of 1841 was for the greater good of the country. Upon confederation, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, all now have a partnership on a par with the terms that brought about the union of Upper and Lower Canada. It is a far cry from the treaty of capitulation to the present time, but it is little short of the marvelous manner in which that treaty has affected the present conditions of the country.

The French race has preserved its individuality, and that must prove of incalculable value in the suppression of vapid agitators and turbulent elements, Canada to-day is strong in its cohesion, but it would not be for the partnership of years ago. If Canada had been British in its make-up from the start it would have undoubtedly gone with the United States when that country drew away from the mother country. Had Canada not become British in 1793 it would have been bought out by the United States at the time Napoleon was selling the possession of the French.

The battle of the Plains of Abraham in a great measure revealed to Great Britain the strength of her navy, and from that day to the present time, the naval supremacy of the United Kingdom has never been questioned.

The taking of Quebec laid the foundation of the British Empire, for at that time England had but a slight hold in India and Australia, but now it owns portions of the globe. Had the campaign against Canada in 1759 failed, it would have broken up the strength of Great Britain. By the winning of Canada the British army was able to sweep the whole continent of North America.

In what spirit should Canadians celebrate the Quebec bicentenary? was the question that is often being asked. To the French population of Canada it will no doubt bring some saddening thoughts. To Canadians it ought to bring home the fact that we have a partnership with the British Empire, and at the same time not forget our French brothers, who have helped so materially in the building of one of the greatest nations that God had ever blessed.

HODGINS WISHES TO AMEND CHARGES

PRESS REPORTS WERE SOMEWHAT TOO BROAD

Transcontinental Commission Has Strong Case and Confidence of Result.

Ottawa, May 8.—The opening session this morning of the special commission to investigate Major Hodgins' charges against the transcontinental railway commission showed the desire of the latter to amend the charges as given in the press at the cost to make them "more intelligible."

Hon. Mr. Parent, of the commission, objected to allowing Major Hodgins to pick and choose his charges. His first statements had been published broadcast throughout the Dominion, and he should be made to stand by them as a whole. The chairman of the commission promised that every facility would be given for the production of all the papers relating to the charges, and an investigation would be made thorough enough to suit everyone.

Major Hodgins was represented by his brother, Frank Hodgins, K. C., of Toronto, who asked the government to pay the expense of his services as counsel, quoting as a precedent a government case in Ontario. This question was left over till Tuesday next for further consultation. Meanwhile Mr. Hodgins will prepare a précis of the charges. The investigation promises to be a long one. The transcontinental commission has prepared a strong case against Hodgins, and is confident of the result of the investigation. The investigation promises to be a long one. The transcontinental commission has prepared a strong case against Hodgins, and is confident of the result of the investigation.

KETCHELL V. SULLIVAN.

San Francisco, May 9.—An utter absence of Sullivan money, together with a flood of coin to be placed on Stanley Ketchell, under the light of the "big best odds obtainable," forced betting to 10 to 1, and some bets here were handled at the Mission street arena on the fight between Jack (Twin) Sullivan and Ketchell. In action bet were offered at 10 to 1 money that Ketchell will win inside of 25 rounds.

The men will weigh in this morning, and they must not tip the beam at 155 pounds. The fight will be in the ring at 8 o'clock, and the bout is scheduled to last 25 rounds. Billie Roche will referee the fight.

Vancouver is building a fine new yacht club.

WIND BOTHERED GOLF PLAYERS

IN HANDICAP GAMES YESTERDAY AFTERNOON

Very Low Scores Were Made Throughout the Day.

The morning has been full of surprises at the golf links. Perhaps the greatest of all the surprises was the defeat of Harvey Combe by G. L. Munn, of Seattle. The win was just in the last hole, and the play was very even throughout. Combe played



A group of Victoria's lady players. Included are Mrs. Langley, Mrs. Burton, Mrs. Elliott, Miss Pooley, Miss Combe and Miss Bell.

wretchedly, as he has done in every game except the one yesterday afternoon.

The other game in the men's championship was very close, Gillespie beating Spooner on the nineteenth hole. The final will be played off to-morrow morning, and of course will be the great event of the week.

The ladies' championship games were not as close as the men's. Miss Tilton beat Mrs. Langley, 2 up and 1 to play. Mrs. Langley beat Mrs. Jones (Tacoma), 3 up and 1 to play. Mrs. Combe beat Miss Pooley, 2 up and 1 to play. Miss E. Tilton beat Mrs. Combe, 1 up.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

There was rather too much breeze yesterday afternoon for the comfort of the golf players and that accounted to a large extent for the poor scores in the bogey handicap men's foursomes. The winners of that event were F. W. Mc-

Crinion and R. Hodgins, both of Butte, Montana. Their score was two up on bogey with a handicap of ten. H. C. Henry and C. D. Stimson, with a handicap of eighteen, came second with one up. All the other scores were low. The following is a list of the best scores. The majority of the players did not put in their cards.

Handicaps Against Bogey.—F. W. McCrinion and R. Hodgins (10) 2 up. H. C. Henry and C. D. Stimson (18) 1 up.

Prior and Minor (8) 1 down. Andrews and Robertson (10) 1 down. Robertson and Pemberton (5) 5 down. Birch and Waghorn (9) 5 down. Griggs and Combe (1) 5 down.

Mrs. Carsten was the winner of the ladies' handicap singles. Her handicap was 14 and she won with a score of 22. Mrs. Burton was a close second with Mrs. Koehler and Miss Langley tied for third place.

There was still a good crowd at the links and in spite of the wind the spectators enjoyed themselves. The section of the links about the club-house is well sheltered, and with an extra wrap the ladies did not find the coolness annoying.

The following scores, which were turned in, are in the order of merit.

Ladies' Handicap Singles.

Mrs. Carsten (14) 92

Mrs. Burton (4) 92

Mrs. Koehler (12) 98

Miss Langley (plus 2) 103

Handicap Foursomes.

Strout beat Almsworth, 5 up and 4 to play. Prior beat Tde, 5 up and 4 to play. Ladies' Handicap Foursomes.

Miss J. Baillie and Mrs. Curran 118 38

Mrs. Combes and Mrs. Cursons 98 4 32

Mrs. Burrill and Mrs. Baillie 106 14 32

Mrs. Thorne and Mrs. Rice 108 17 32

Mrs. Hurley and Mrs. Ashton 109 15 32

Miss Farnie and Miss Cobbett 103 14 32

Miss Gillespie and Miss Pooley 110 15 32

Mrs. George and Miss Tilton 115 24 32

Mrs. Burton and Miss V. Pooley 83 0 32

Mrs. Ayer and Mrs. Koehler 83 4 32

Miss E. Tilton and Mrs. Waghorn 94 9 32

Mrs. Langley and Mrs. Elliott 75 2 32

Mrs. Lindsay and Miss Turner 103 10 32

Mrs. Flanders and Miss Koehler 116 20 32

Mrs. Martin and Miss Combe 85 7 32

Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Hilton 97 16 32

Mrs. Langley and Miss Peters 102 18 32

Miss Garrett and Miss Murgrove 114 30 32

Harvey Combe, who has been playing

so badly up to date, is standing down and yesterday afternoon played an excellent game against Murphy, of Portland. In beating him yesterday afternoon he was getting his revenge for the beating Murphy gave him when the Victoria team visited Portland a few months ago. Murphy is considered one of the best players on the coast. G. L. Munn, of Seattle, defeated Magill, also of that city. The result of the second round of the men's championship yesterday was as follows:

Men's Championship.

Second round: Harvey Combe (Victoria) beat C. J. Murphy (Portland), 4 up and 3 to play. G. L. Munn (Seattle) beat C. K. Magill (Seattle), 1 up.

D. L. Gillespie (Victoria) beat C. P. Spooner (Seattle), one up at twentieth hole. G. A. Andrews (Seattle) beat E. F. Lindsay (Seattle), 2 up.

There was not anything like the interest taken in the contest for the men's flight cup as in the championship game and the players were not very eager to get away. The following, how-



A group of Victoria's lady players. Included are Mrs. Langley, Mrs. Burton, Mrs. Elliott, Miss Pooley, Miss Combe and Miss Bell.

ever, were the results up to last night in this competition:

E. E. Almsworth beat G. Welch, 2 up and 1 to play. J. A. Rithet beat G. Voorhies, 3 up and 1 to play.

C. G. L. Ide won from Thorne by default. C. J. Prior beat W. L. Clarke, 2 up and 1 to play.

F. Carr beat R. Waghorn, 2 up and 1 to play. The ladies foursomes commenced rather late in the afternoon yesterday. There was some excellent play, Mrs. Langley again playing with a wonderful, fully good judgment. The following was the result of that contest:

Mrs. Langley beat Mrs. Burton, 2 up and 1 to play. Mrs. Holland beat Mrs. Jones (Tacoma), 3 up and 1 to play.

Mrs. Combe beat Miss Pooley, 2 up and 1 to play. Miss E. Tilton beat Mrs. Combe, 1 up.

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