

The Times Nature Club

Visit to a Swamp.
There is at 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 animals had worked.

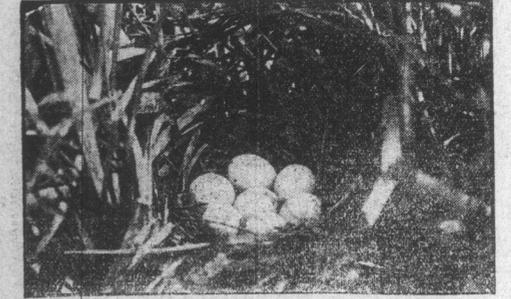
Red-winged Blackbird.
Although there were not any beaver at the swamp there were other inhabitants, thousands of them both in the water, the air and the surrounding woods. No sooner did we arrive at the banks of the swamp than we were discovered by a red-winged blackbird that in all probability had its 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 hawk swooped down toward the blackbird and the blackbird was sitting and where presumably it had its nest. The blackbird at once flew to the hawk and drove it away. Several times the hawk returned but every time it was met by the red-winged bird, and at last retired without interfering with the nest.

Visit From Quail.
A few days ago one of the well-trained setter dogs in town was lying outside the back door of a city residence when his master noticed him prick up his ears and straighten out almost into a sitting position. He looked to see what it was that attracted the dog's attention. There he saw two quail feeding out of the dog's dish. They seemed not to notice the dog at all, he, true to his training, kept perfectly still. It has been suggested that the dog reasoned that if he did not interfere with the birds now there would be sport when the hunting season arrived. The main point, however, was the tameness of the



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 end of the walk we cut 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. In about five minutes, there was a slight rustling among the reeds. We did not hear the call which must have preceded this, but we knew that the old bird had alighted again in the neighborhood and must be softly calling her little ones to her. In a moment they ventured forth and swam towards her quietly as possible and we saw them no more. 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 we made the acquaintance of a

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 in a hole in the ground, 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 pecking 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 grass and fern among which the nest is built, 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 he makes his 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 affect 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 carriages. 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 we 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.

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.

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 land 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 Descants 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 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 those assembled, 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 congratulated 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 speaker in a few words.

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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 British. There were three projects 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 North American continent, Nova Scotia, and the British Empire, and later Manitoba, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island, till now we have a partnership on practically the same 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 worked out the present conditions of the country.

The French race has preserved its individuality, and that must prove of incalculable value in the suppression of rapid agitators and turbulent elements. Canada to-day is strong in its cohesion, but it would not be if not 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 1776 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 one-quarter of the civilized portions of the globe. Had our 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 often being asked. To the French population of Quebec no doubt bring some saddening thoughts. To Canadians it ought to bring home the fact that we have a right to maintain in the future, and at the same time not forget our French brothers, who have helped so materially in the building of one of the grandest nations that God has ever blessed.

The ladies' championship games were not as close as the men's. Miss Tilton beat Mrs. Langley and Mrs. Burton, 8 up and 6 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 and 1 to play.

(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

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 Commons committee 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 of the coast 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 committee promised that the production of all the papers relating to the charges, and an investigation would be made through enough to suit everyone.

Major Hodgins was represented by his lawyer, Mr. 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 promised 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 French did not believe in the administration of English law, and would not accept military law from 1759 to 1894.

United States during 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 some day would have to be done for the good 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, and the British received what they wanted. 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 some 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. The object of the act being to separate the two nations now on Canadian soil. That was the position of affairs for

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. 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, 8 up and 6 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 and 1 to play.

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J. A. Rithet "teeing off" at the Oak Bay links during the tournament.

morning, but this afternoon it is worse. The following are the detailed results: Men's Championship Semi-Finals. Gillespie beat Spooner on the nineteenth hole. G. L. Munn beat Harvey Combe on the last hole. Ladies' Championship Semi-Finals. Miss Tilton beat Miss Combe, 2 up and 1 to play. Mrs. Langley beat Mrs. Holland, 4 up and 3 to play. Men's Flight Championship Semi-Finals. Strout beat Almsworth, 5 up and 4 to play. Prior beat Ide, 5 up and 4 to play. Ladies' Handicap Foursomes.

Handicaps Against Bogey.—F. W. McCrimmon and H. Hodgins (10) 2 up. H. C. Henry and C. D. Stimson (18) 1 up. Prior and Minor (8) 1 down. Andrews and Robston (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 92. 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 (18) 98. Mrs. Langley (plus 2) 103.

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-



(From Saturday's Daily.)

There will be no appropriation this year for the gun clubs by the Victoria board of public works. This was decided at a meeting held last night to discuss the estimates. Several applications were received from other private clubs, and they either had to be all granted or all cut out. The shortness of funds made it necessary to cut them all out. Already the appropriation has been overdrawn, and it will be necessary for the committee to go out and collect some more money.

It seems rather a pity that the trap shooting could not have been included among the regular features of the holiday. There were a large number of visitors expected from Vancouver, Westminster, Seattle, Bellingham, Everett and a number of other places. The result is a great disappointment to many.

The programme for the regatta has been definitely decided upon, and is as follows: Double scull school boat race, open to any club, and under actual attendance of school. Only one crew from each school allowed to enter; course from E. Crowe Baker's boat house to starters' barge—Prize value, \$12. Indian war canoe, 40 to 50 feet, course around Deadman's island and return—Prizes: 1st, \$6; 2nd, \$3; 3rd, \$1 per paddle. Four-oared service cutters, open to army and navy forces; course around Deadman's island and return—Prizes: 1st, \$25; 2nd, \$10. Swimming race, 100 yards, open to amateurs—Prize, medal, value \$7.50; 2nd prize, medal value \$2.50. Four-oared service cutters, open to amateurs; course around Deadman's island and return—Prize: 1st, value \$30. Four-oared lap streak, amateur, junior championship of British Columbia; course from Point Ellice bridge to starters' barge. Prizes valued at \$32. Kilo-o'clock race, working canoe only; course from starters' barge round buoy and return. Prizes—1st, \$3; 2nd, \$2; 3rd, \$1 per paddle. Dinghy race, double sculls; open to ladies with gentleman coxswain. Dinghy must be 15 feet or under; course from buoy near Curtis' Point to starters' barge. Prize value \$10. Kilo-o'clock race, working canoe only; course from starters' barge round buoy and return. Prizes—1st, \$3; 2nd, \$2; 3rd, \$1 per paddle. Double paddle Indian canoe race, 5 miles, open to all. Prizes—1st, \$10; 2nd, \$5 per canoe. Four-oared lap streak amateur, senior championship of British Columbia; course from Point Ellice bridge to starters' barge. Prizes—1st, \$40; 2nd, \$20; 3rd, \$10. Greasy pole. Prize value \$5.

EFFORTS TO LOCATE SHAW UNAVAILING

Police Find No Trace of Man Who Disappeared From Home Wednesday.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

Despite the fact that a thorough search has been made for the past two days not a trace has been found of John Shaw, the man who disappeared from his home close to the North Dairy farm pumping station early Wednesday morning. Shaw was in shirt, pants and slippers. As time goes on without any trace of him being found fears that Mr. Shaw has done himself some injury increase although it is possible he is safe somewhere with friends. It is known that he was worrying over his financial condition and this does not add any to the peace of mind of his wife, who is in a delicate state of health, and of his sister, Mrs. Brunskill, who was at her brother's house when he disappeared.

The search for Shaw is being conducted through the woods and rural districts by Constable Russell, of South Saanich, while the city police are keeping an eye out for him should he be in any chance wander into the city. It is considered a significant fact that it justifies fears of the worst that not a person has been found who has seen Shaw since he left home. In his scanty attire he would at once attract attention, but no one has reported seeing a man so dressed.

It is learned that Shaw, who was recently discharged by E. G. Prior & Co., Limited, when the staff was being re-arranged, felt the loss of his position very keenly. Following the loss of his position he rented a small ranch close to the North Dairy farm pumping station but he did not find things to go as smoothly in connection with it as he had hoped and latterly was wont to complain bitterly that the rent was paying was too high.

Crocker apparently knows how to win a Newmarket race as well as winning a New York election. There is no word that he used Tammany methods when going after the throne and it is as he must be rather galling to have a Tammany boss come in and take the prizes from the old English aristocrats.

Miss Musgrave (13)	102
Mrs. Combe (4)	102
Miss Combe (4)	104
Mrs. Waghorn (14)	105
Mrs. Jones (10)	106
Miss Gillespie (18)	106
Miss Cobbett (16)	107
Mrs. Martin (16)	107
Miss Garrett (18)	107
Mrs. Koehler (18)	110
Mrs. Bailey (10)	110
Mrs. Hillton (18)	112
Mrs. Elliott (8)	113
Mrs. Thorne (18)	114
Ladies Flight Championship, Semi-Final.	
Miss Ayer beat Miss Flanders 3 up, 2 to play.	
Mrs. Carstens beat Mrs. Ashton 2 up, (2) 1 to play.	

PROGRAMME TO BE CARRIED OUT THIS YEAR

The Committee Has Found it Necessary to Cut Off Trap Shooting.

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