

NOTES ON TWO RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS IN THE MUSEUM OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA.

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The additions are two specimens that were presented by the Rev. J. H. Keen, of Metlakatla, B.C., per Dr. James Fletcher, on the 24th of December, 1907. They are as follows:—

(1). *MICROTUS MACRURUS*, Merriam.

(*The Olympic Vole*).

"Parturiunt montes, nascitur ridiculus mus."

Skin of a female of this species. The animal was captured by Mr. Keen at or near Metlakatla, on the 28th of August, 1907.

Under the auspices of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Mr. Vernon Bailey has published a "Revision of American Voles of the Genus *Microtus*" in 1900, and Mr. David E. Lantz, "An Economic Study of Field Mice (Genus *Microtus*)" in 1907.

"Field mice, of the genus *Microtus*," writes Mr. Lantz, have "stout bodies, blunt, rounded muzzles, small eyes, and short ears—often completely concealed in the fur. The tail is short and hairy; the soles of the feet are naked or clothed with short hairs, and have five or six foot pads (plantar tubercles). The incisors are broad and not grooved.

"The molar teeth, in all members of the genus, like the incisors of all rodents, grow continuously throughout the life of the animal and do not develop roots. They are prismatic in form, and the crowns show triangular dentinal spaces surrounded by lines of harder enamel. These curious enamel patterns are of great importance in the classification of the animals, as they are but slightly affected by age and wear and are remarkably constant for each species.

"About 165 living species and subspecies of *Microtus* have been recognized (1904), of which about 78 are North American."

And of these 78, it may be added, about 30 are now known to occur in Canada. In the Museum of the Survey there are about 100 skins of Canadian voles or field mice of this genus, representing at least 10 species or subspecies, and including a fine series of skins of *M. Drummondii* from Alberta and British Columbia.