

Canada. His resultant report displays, in the amplest degree, a faculty of observation given to but a very limited number of investigators, and a fearlessness in presenting the results of findings which is, and always will be, the highest and most valued characteristic of a genuine scientific investigator and a true public servant.

When not engaged in the special work briefly referred to, Mr. Macoun was, during his last 20 years, largely occupied with botanical work, except in 1909, when he spent considerable time assisting his father in the preparation of the "Catalogue of Canadian Birds." Remaining in Ottawa during the summer of 1897, for the first time since being connected with the Geological Survey, Mr. Macoun made a special study of the violets of the Ottawa region, discovering species new to science, and in 1913 he again collected in the Ottawa region, supplementing the botanical material which had been brought together by his father and himself with a view of publishing a "Flora of the Ottawa District." In 1910, Mr. Macoun studied the fauna and flora on the west coast of Hudson bay, and, in 1912, he was engaged in botanical work on Vancouver island, particularly in Strathcona Park where several species new to Canada as well as to science were discovered. From 1914, he worked in British Columbia and in Jasper Park, Alberta. The islands of the Gulf of Georgia, as well as the Comox district of Vancouver island, were thoroughly investigated from a botanical standpoint. During the last two years, Mr. Macoun made a most complete botanical survey of Jasper Park, Alta., extending his working field the last year westward along the Grand Trunk Pacific railway.

Mr. Macoun was appointed Assistant Naturalist in the Geological Survey in 1898 and Botanist in 1917. In 1918, he was appointed Chief of the Biological Division.

This brief outline of Mr. Macoun's field work and career as a naturalist may give some idea, although a rather incomplete and vague one, of the magnitude of the scope of work undertaken by him.

His unique record will, by force of its excellence, guarantee him an ever-honoured place as a Canadian naturalist of the highest rank. As a botanist, particularly, he contributed enormously to the knowl-

edge and understanding of the Canadian flora. His extensive travels made him familiar with the flora from eastern Canada to the extreme islands off the Pacific coast, and from the hot and arid parts of southern British Columbia to the tundra of the Arctic. No one in Canada, with the exception of his illustrious father, ever possessed such a thorough knowledge of the Canadian flora as did James Macoun, and, as a result, he was justly recognized and esteemed as the greatest authority in matters botanical, next to his venerable father, that Canada ever produced. His name is indelibly written on the pages of the History of Canadian Botany.

Mr. Macoun's fame as a botanist and as a naturalist in general may be contributed to three main characteristics, namely, a brilliancy of mind enabling him to grasp quickly and accurately the central idea of arguments and the relative value of evidence presented, an in-born love of investigations for the sake of the investigation itself, and a fund of energy which permitted no physical obstacles to be raised in the way of his investigational efforts.

Extremely modest and unassuming, Mr. Macoun was the type of scientist who derives complete satisfaction from the conscientious persecution of his work without seeking public reward for the service done.

Mr. Macoun was a true scientist whose untimely death is sincerely deplored by his many scientific and other friends. The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club is feeling his departure deeply and recently expressed its sentiments in the following resolution:

"The members of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club desire to place on record their deep sorrow in the death of their fellow member and friend, Mr. James M. Macoun, C.M.G. Mr. Macoun's reputation as a careful, conscientious naturalist was by no means confined to Canada. In his death the Geological Survey has lost a valuable officer and members of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club a true friend, ever ready to assist, not only in the furtherance of the botany of Canada, but in other branches of natural history as well. The council desires to express its sincerest sympathy to his widow and daughter."

M. O. MALTE.

