

## THE CARIBOU OF QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS.

In the issue of THE OTTAWA NATURALIST for February, 1900, Mr. Ernest Thompson-Seton described a new species of caribou from the Queen Charlotte Islands. The species was founded on a fragmentary skull and one horn but the description of the skin given by a gentleman who saw it and a comparison of the skull with that of allied species seemed to warrant Mr. Thompson-Seton's conclusion that the caribou of the Queen Charlotte Islands was an undescribed species. However this may prove to be the more important question of whether there are really caribou on Graham Island or not has been doubted by many residents of British Columbia. This doubt has now been set at rest by Commander Hunt and Lieut. Bills, of H. M. S. Shearwater, whose account of their visit to Graham Island is printed below. It is due to the kindness of Mr. F. Kermode, Curator of the Provincial Museum at Victoria, B. C., that the EDITOR is enabled to supplement the very complete account given by Mr. Thompson-Seton of what was at that time known of the Graham Island caribou by this later information. The tracing of the foot-print referred to in Messrs. Hunt and Bills' report has been shown to several gentlemen who have seen caribou tracks and all pronounce it to have been made by that animal. Messrs. Hunt and Bills report as follows:

"For some years past the question of the existence of caribou on Queen Charlotte Islands has been frequently discussed by naturalists and sportsmen. A pair of antlers, supposed to have been taken from a caribou shot on these islands, was sent from Graham Island to Victoria some years ago, but this, we believe, is the only specimen which is known to have come from that island, and sceptics have suggested that the head probably came from the mainland and was traded with the Indians of the islands.

"From time to time various persons who have visited the islands have reported tracks of animals of the deer family, but, in view of the fact that wild cattle are known to wander about inland, it has been thought that these were responsible for the tracks. As far as we can ascertain, no pair of antlers has been taken from the islands for some years, and, apart from the horns mentioned above, over whose authenticity doubts have been cast, naturalists were in doubt as to the nature of the animal which,