

interest in the society at its headquarters by continuing to furnish such excellent programmes for our evening and afternoon lecture courses, this interest will gradually spread to the remotest limit, till presently we shall find the little society in Ottawa a gathering centre for information from all parts of the Dominion, concerning which aspect of the question I may have something further to say presently. Though I regret that owing to absence I was unable to be present at but two of your excursions, I am glad to know that throughout the season they were markedly successful, both in the numbers attending them and in the greatly increased interest manifested in the several scientific branches which were discussed. I think, therefore, on the whole, the club has great cause to be proud of the work already accomplished, and, judging from the progress of the last two years, it can safely be predicted that before the next decade, at the present rate of growth, this society will be the largest and most influential scientific body on the American continent. To some this may seem a far-fetched notion, but, I think, if we look at the composition of the club as it is to-day, with its long list of names, among which are those of many men distinguished for scientific attainments in every branch of Natural History, both at home and abroad, you will all agree with me that the realization of this ambition lies entirely within ourselves. And why should it not be realized? Why should not Ottawa, the centre of legislative and political influence, the most important city in many respects in the Dominion, the seat also of the largest purely scientific staff in the country, as well as of the Royal Society, with its several important institutions of learning, be also the headquarters of the largest and most important scientific society in Canada as well? I firmly believe, if we pursue the proper methods to this end and do not allow our zeal to flag, we shall see this aim accomplished. By enlarged membership we secure enlarged means, and with increased means greater facilities for publication and extended influence. I do not know of any society or scientific institution anywhere, either in this or the adjacent great country of the United States, which, for the small sum of one dollar a year, provides such an amount of valuable information, both in its lecture courses and in its publications, as the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.