

which existed at or near their confluence with the greater rivers, and naturally so, for it was by that route in almost every case that they were first reached.

Madawaska. Baraga gives this as derived from *Matawashka*, meaning the river with hay or rushes at its mouth.

This is certainly not correct as regards the *Madawaska* which is a tributary of the Ottawa. At

its mouth the banks are comparatively high and rocky and the water between them deep. At no time within historic period can there ever have been any growth of rushes there.

Its derivation is undoubtedly from "Meta or Mata", denoting the forking of a river, and "Auska" the sound of rippling current.

Thus *Mata Auska* means "the river with a rippling current at its mouth".

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS

IN DEFENCE OF THE CROW.—(A letter in the *Manitoba Free Press*) by Norman Criddle, Treesbank, Man., Nov. 23, 1918. Republished in *The Canadian Forestry Journal*, XIII, Dec., 1918.

This letter is in answer to a denunciation of the crow in a previous issue of the *Free Press*, evidently calling attention to its egg-stealing proclivities in relation to game. Mr. Criddle quite properly calls attention to the fact that the crow for generations lived side by side with other wild life but without evident serious effect upon it until man came in and assisted in turning the scale. He therefore largely acquits the crow with being a serious factor in the disappearance of the wild game which he blames upon over-shooting and disregard of present laws which he regards to be sufficient if enforced to restock our preserves. He incidentally makes complaint of the automobile which certainly is the most serious new destructive agency wild life has had to face since the passing of the flint-lock gun. He calls attention to Bulletin 621, of the U.S. Biological Survey, "The Crow and its Relation to Man" (Supt. Public Documents, Washington, 15 cents), and its findings as to the value of the crow as an insect destroyer supplementing it with figures of his own stomach examinations.

The crow is economically one of our most perplexing species, its good and evil traits are inextricably intermingled. It certainly does a great amount of harm, but as certainly it also does a large amount of good. It is almost impossible to find out just where we stand in relation to it. The fact that it has cleared the grubs from his neighbour's field does not satisfy him who sees an entire planting of corn destroyed and the number of game bird nests destroyed by the culprit staggers its sincerest apologist. The relation of the crow to agriculture is, however, largely an academic question. The crow is with us to stay and though active war has been waged against it for several generations it increases

or remains stationary according to local conditions irrespective of the efforts of man. The general farmer and the sportsman are too convinced of the undesirability of the crow to be readily moved from their belief. As the question does not seem to be serious, the crow being in no danger of extinction, in spite of diatribe against it, it seems the part of wisdom to direct our attention to less questionable subjects where the need is more pressing and our influence promises to be more effective.

P. A. T.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.—This society has recently published Numbers 8 and 10, Systematic Series, both of which are of interest not only to students of insect life within the province, but also to entomologists throughout North America. In Number 8 (30 pages), E. H. Blackmore discusses the species of the genus *Pero* which occur in British Columbia, and in addition gives "Further additions to the list of British Columbia Geometridæ; R. C. Treherne tells of the occurrence of *Glutops singularis* in B. C., and Mr. G. O. Day has a paper in "Larva Rearing." In Number 10 (31 pages), W. Downes presents "Notes on the Lepidoptera of the Northern Okanagan; J. W. Cockle discusses larval hibernation and the movement of *Boreus* in snow; E. H. Blackmore, "Notes on Geometridæ new to B. C. (2 plates), and Dr. A. E. Cameron, "Fossil Insects," with special reference to those of the Tertiary lake deposits of the Similkameen valley, B. C. In addition, Mr. Treherne publishes an obituary notice of Tom Wilson who possessed a wide knowledge of natural history, particularly of the province of British Columbia, and whose sad death in a disastrous fire at Coquihalla Hotel, Hope, B. C., on March 16, 1917, was a distinct loss to field-naturalists generally.

A. G.