

ferred upon him some time ago, of being appointed one of the Commissioners in the Behring Sea Arbitration, now pending between us and the United States. It was only three weeks ago, and after he himself had fixed upon this date on which to deliver his opening address, that he informed us that he was suddenly re-called to England in connection with his duties as Commissioner, and that consequently he would be unable to be with us this evening.

I do not pretend to fill his place. I merely, by reason of my office, and at the urgent request of the Council, take precedence on the programme.

Before entering upon the subject of my address, however, you will naturally expect me to say something regarding the growth, the welfare and the present standing of the Club. I propose, therefore, to bring before you very briefly, some of the more important facts and features in the Club's more immediate history. Such information should be of interest both to us, who are members, and to those who are with us for the first time to-night. It is the wish that every member should be a real, active, live member, doing *something* for his or her own educational good, and the furtherance of the interests of us all. Working members ought to know—must know—what the Club is doing and how it prospers, if the work is to be successful.

THE CLUB.

The Club is not composed, as some might imagine, of scientists. We make no such claim. The Club is made up of those who have some love for nature, in one or other of her phases; of those who are wishful to learn something more than they already know regarding animals and plants, and the "solid ground of nature;" of those who, thus learning, are willing to share with and impart to others such fragments of knowledge as they have been fortunate in adding to their store. As Dr. MacCabe rightly said, we are first and foremost, an educational society. Opportunities to learn and investigate are offered to our members, in winter and summer; let us see to it that we take advantage of them.

We have also another feature in our club life. I have been pleased to notice that we are a social Club, and to remark that there exists