

## NOTES OF A NATURALIST IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

The following interesting notes have been kindly communicated to the Club by Mr. W. E. Brooks of Mount Forest, Ont. They are extracts from letters from Mr. Allan Brooks, an ardent naturalist sportsman and collector, now living at Vernon,

Vernon, B. C., 7th Nov., 1897. My dear Father, —After my last unlucky trip after Bighorn I did not like to tell you that I was going after them again, as I knew you would be anxious about my going so late in the year; but I am now safe back again, and I send you a sketch of my best head as mounted by myself; length of horns  $26\frac{1}{2}$  inches, circumference 14 inches. I also got a ewe and a yearling, as well as a 9-point buck male deer. My companion, Dick Ford, got a 2 year old ram, with horns about half as big as the above, and 3 deer. We could have shot many more deer, but it was no use wasting game. There was an old miner, placer mining in the creek up there, for whom we got a winter's supply of meat, so very little meat was wasted. I was so bent on getting them this time that I ordered a .30 cal. smokeless rifle, as they are the rifles for long range; but after all I had to go without it, as it was necessary to send to the factory for it. If I had had it, I should have got 3 heads like the above. The average shot is 300 yards, and most of my shooting was done at double that distance. I wounded some others which I never got. Like the Rocky Mountain goats the Big-horns are very tough and take far more killing than a Black Bear. I shot the old ram through, behind shoulder, smashing the opposite shoulder, and again as he was going away (175 yards) half an inch above root of tail, the bullet ranging through his vitals, and again in the chest before he went down. A big buck I shot in the same place, only made 2 jumps and rolled over, and it, too, was further away when I fired. The ewe I knocked over at 250 yds; she and a ram were standing together.

Of birds I saw large flocks of *Leucostictes*, Clark's Crows very common, and lots of Ravens, also Golden Eagles. Once