

Governments of Great Britain and the United States, Canada should at least have the credit of thoroughly exploring the Gulf of St. Lawrence, one of the most interesting inland seas in the world; and it is to be hoped that the Honorable the Minister of Marine and Fisheries will follow up in this matter the work he has so well begun.

I have considered it my duty, in this address, prepared, as you know, merely as the substitute of my aged friend, Mr. Barnston, one of the veterans in the study of natural history in this country, to dwell almost entirely on the special interests of the Society, and I would, in conclusion, earnestly bespeak in its behalf your warm and zealous countenance and aid, in order that it may enter on a new and vigorous career, and may in the year to come advance with accelerated rapidity and make itself more and more worthy of being the central and most important Society devoted to Natural Science in this Dominion.

I trust that those who have been the old and tried friends of the Society will still cling to its interests, and that the young naturalists who are rising up around us will add their fresh vigour and enthusiasm, so that the next year may be signalized by greater things than any which has preceded it. For my own part I am disposed to give more time and effort than heretofore, rather than less, to the interests of the Society, whether aiding in its management or in contributing to its scientific success.

The Chairman of Council, Mr. G. L. Marler, then read the following report of the proceedings of that body:

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL.

Your Council at the end of their year of office respectfully report as follows:

That the monthly meetings of the Society have not been very numerously attended—a fact greatly to be regretted and due perhaps to their having been called by postal cards, issued at the beginning of the year and containing a list of the meetings, with their dates. Your Council had hoped that this system would have attained its object, but it has apparently been unsuccessful.

Your Council suggest that for the ensuing year, arrangements be made as early in the season as possible for the papers to be read at the monthly meetings and for the Sommerville course of Lectures: in this way contributors would have ample time to prepare their subjects and there could be some system adopted as to the order of the papers, &c.