

THE BEHRING SEA SEAL COMMISSION.

Every member of the OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB must feel proud that one of our most highly esteemed members, Dr. G. M. Dawson, First Assistant Director of the Geological Survey of Canada, should have been chosen as one of the two British Commissioners entrusted with the investigation of the habits of the Fur Seal in the Behring Sea. The United States Commissioner is our corresponding member, Dr. C. Hart Merriam, of Washington, who won such golden opinions from all who had the good fortune to meet him in Ottawa a few years ago when he attended our spring outing to Kingsmere, on the occasion of the excursion given by the Club to the Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada. There are no two men in America better fitted to carry out this important investigation, and the association of their names with that of Sir George Baden-Powell, the English Commissioner, ensures that the work will be done in a thorough and scientific manner. Dr. Dawson is the eldest son of Sir William Dawson, Principal of McGill University. He was born at Pictou, Nova Scotia, August 1st, 1849. Although a comparatively young man, his career has been a brilliant and useful one. Educated at McGill University, Montreal, and the Royal School of Mines, London, England, to the associateship of which he was admitted in 1872, and where he held the Duke of Cornwall's Scholarship, given by the Prince of Wales, and took the Edward Forbes Medal in Palaeontology and the Murchison Medal in Geology. He was appointed Geologist and Naturalist to Her Majesty's Boundary Commission in 1873, and investigated the country along the boundary of Canada and the United States, from the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mountains. In 1875 he issued his report under the title of "The Geology and Resources of the 49th Parallel," and in the same year received an appointment upon the Geological Survey of Canada, since which time he has done much valuable work in exploring the unknown regions of British Columbia and the North-West Territories. In 1877 he commanded the Yukon river expedition to Alaska, making a boat voyage of 1300 miles, with one portage of 50 miles, from the basin of the Liard to the Yukon. Dr. Dawson has travelled extensively and studied in Europe. He is a member of many scientific bodies, and was one of the original Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada. He is a Doctor of Science, and is also an LL.D. both of Queen's University, Kingston, and McGill Univer