

The report of the Chairman of Council was next read by Mr. G. L. Marler, as follows:

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL.

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

That the regular Monthly Meetings have been held, to the number of six, at which nine papers have been read. A list of these will be found in the Proceedings of the Society for the year just closed.

Your Council have also to report that negotiations have been entered into between the "Fraser Institute," the "Royal Institution for the promotion of Learning," and this Society, with a view to the union of the latter with the Fraser Institute, in order to establish a Free Museum of Natural History and Archæology.

The President and Principal Dawson were appointed a Committee to confer with the Governors of the Fraser Institute, and a preliminary memorandum of the conditions of union has been prepared. Some progress in the matter has been made, the proposition for the said union being favorably entertained by the Governors of the Fraser Institute. Special application was also made by this Society to the Royal Institution for the advancement of Learning to obtain its consent to such amalgamation, subject to the same rights in the new museum as its professors and students now possess. Further action in the matter has been delayed, in consequence of the absence of the Honorable Mr. Abbott, one of the Trustees of the Fraser Institute, in England. On his return, these negotiations will be resumed.

A Field Day was held on the 24th of May, 1874, at Belœil Mountain, and notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather the excursion was a decided success. A large number of people took part in it, a very pleasant day was spent, and prizes were awarded for the best collections made. Your council would suggest to the incoming officers that these Field Days should be continued.

Your Council would further report that the operations of its Scientific Curator in Dredging in the Gulf of the St. Lawrence were discontinued this year, through the inability of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to place one of the Government vessels at his disposal, as on former occasions.