

practical science officer of the Geological Survey of the Dominion; notably, are the following explorations of territory:—

"Prof. Macoun's first trip across the prairies was with Sir Sanford Fleming, in 1872. His glowing report of the country traversed caused him to be sent again in 1875, to explore the route that it was then intended that the Canadian Pacific would follow. When the present route was decided upon the Government sent him in 1879, 1880 and 1881 to report upon the country that would be opened up by the railway. Optimistic as his reports and prophecies were, they have all proved true. To these are to be added, Prof. Macoun's explorations in the Canadian Yukon Territory, in 1903, which revealed for the first time, that that far northern division of Canada also possesses agricultural resources of no mean order."

"Motion cordially adopted by Committee, and presented to Prof. Macoun, pro forma, by the Chair."

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club was organized on March 19, 1879, and John Macoun, who at that time lived in Belleville, became that same year one of the corresponding members, and on March 11, 1881, came to Ottawa and delivered an address before the Club on "Capabilities of the Prairie Lands of the Great North-West as Shown by Their Fauna and Flora." He asserted that the botanical test was the only true criterion by which the agricultural status of any district should be judged. In the North-West every species of plant was found to have its particular habit as regards soil and moisture. He had found that even as far north as the Peace River a large number of plants occurred which were of the same general biological type as many Ontario plants, hence he concluded that about the same summer climatic conditions prevailed. He found that certain grasses ripened in the same number of days as wheat in Ontario and the same grasses ripened in about the same time in the North-West, hence the growing seasons were sufficiently alike to ensure the cultivation of wheat over a vast area.

Prof. Macoun moved to Ottawa from Belleville with his wife and family in the autumn of 1882, and lived continuously there until 1912, when he moved to British Columbia. He was President of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club in 1886-7. He was promoted to the position of Assistant Director and Naturalist of the Geological Survey in 1887, which he held until his death. While his home was in Ottawa, he was exploring and collecting in some part of Canada nearly every summer.

It was during these thirty years that he, with the assistance of his son, James M. Macoun, built

up the greater part of the herbarium of over 100,000 specimens of Canadian plants, now in the Victoria Memorial Museum, Ottawa, although in the herbarium are many specimens which he collected sixty years ago. He made large collections also in Western Canada between 1872 and 1882. The first part of his "Catalogue of Canadian Plants" was published in 1883, and he continued to publish parts of this list until 1902, when the last number was issued. The parts appeared as follows:—Polypetalae, 1883; Gamopetalae, 1884; Apetalae, 1886; Endogens, 1888; Acrogens, 1890, Musci, 1892; Lichens and Hepaticae, 1902. The publication of this catalogue was a great undertaking, brought to a successful completion after years of close and personal work. There was a great demand for it, and it is now out of print.

Prof. Macoun began collecting bird skins for the Museum of the Geological Survey at Ottawa in 1879, and through his efforts a large number of skins were obtained from that time on, and before he left Ottawa he had the satisfaction of seeing a very fine collection of Canadian birds there mainly as the result of this work.

He published a Catalogue of Canadian Birds in three parts, the first in 1900, containing the Water Birds, Gallinaceous Birds and Pigeons; the second in 1903, of the Birds of Prey, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Crows, Jays, and Blackbirds; the third in 1904, of the Sparrows, Swallows, Vireos, Warblers, Wrens, Titmice and Thrushes. These proved very popular and useful, and it became necessary to re-publish them in one volume, which was done in 1909 with the assistance of his son, James M. Macoun. This Catalogue gives the name, range, and breeding habits of Canadian Birds.

He published many years ago a small text book on "Elementary Botany," and from time to time during his long life issued many valuable reports and lists.

He had in an advanced stage of preparation, before his death, an "Annotated List of the Flora of the Ottawa Region, an "Annotated List of the Flora of Nova Scotia," and an "Annotated List of the Flora of Vancouver Island."

He was interested in and loved all branches of natural history, and may be said to have been an all round naturalist, though it was as a botanist he was most known. He was one of the first Canadian Fellows of the Linnaean Society of London, Eng., and was a charter member of the Royal Society of Canada.

The town of Macoun, Sask., was named after him.

Prof. Macoun was a man of very strong vitality and was seldom ill. He had decided that he would spend his last years on Vancouver Island, where in