

BUSHY-TAILED RAT—From the south fork of the Salmon River to the coast.

MUSK RAT—Observed from Midway to Osooyos Lake, and from Sumas to Blaine.

POCKET GOPHER—Common from Lost Creek to the summit of the Hope Mountains. A few in the Skagit valley.

POCKET MOUSE—Common at Osooyos Lake in the sage and other low bushes.

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### MEETINGS OF THE BOTANICAL BRANCH.

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The first meeting of the Botanical Section of the Field-Naturalists' Club for the season 1905-6 was held at the residence of the undersigned. Those present were Dr. Fletcher, Prof. John Macoun, Dr. Blackadar, Dr. Ami, Messrs. James Macoun, Attwood, Campbell, R. B. Whyte, and the writer. Although no programme had been prearranged, there were enough interesting questions brought forward to keep all busy in a lively discussion. Mr. Whyte read an article from the "Rural New Yorker" on Luther Burbank, the "wizard of horticulture," in which it was stated that the praise given to him as being a creator of new species, etc., is exaggerated and distorts his achievements and merit; that he is simply a skillful plant breeder and a sincere lover of plants who achieves his successes much on the same lines on which plant breeders have scored successes before him, only his experiments are carried on on a much greater scale. Mr. Whyte and most of those present concurred in this view. In connection herewith it was said that DeVrie's mutation theory was superfluous and useless, and that his "mutations" were simply the *varieties* of other botanists. The origin of the balls of spruce needles sometimes found in or near water was commented upon. Some held they were formed by the wave motion in lakes in shallow water near the shore, others thought they were formed by eddies in pockets or holes in the beds of streams. Dr. Fletcher exhibited a cross-section of a *Eucalyptus* sapling four