

the 'illimitable possibilities' of the country. When summing up the various areas I reached the enormous figures 200,000,000 acres. I recoiled from their publication on the ground that their very immensity would deny me that amount of credence I desired, so as a salve to my conscience I kept to the large number of 200,000,000 acres, but said that there were 79,920,000 acres of arable land and 100,000,000 acres of pastures, swamps and lakes. My statements were looked upon as those of an honest, but crack-brained enthusiast and little at-

tention was paid to them." The sequel, however, has shown that he was a true prophet.

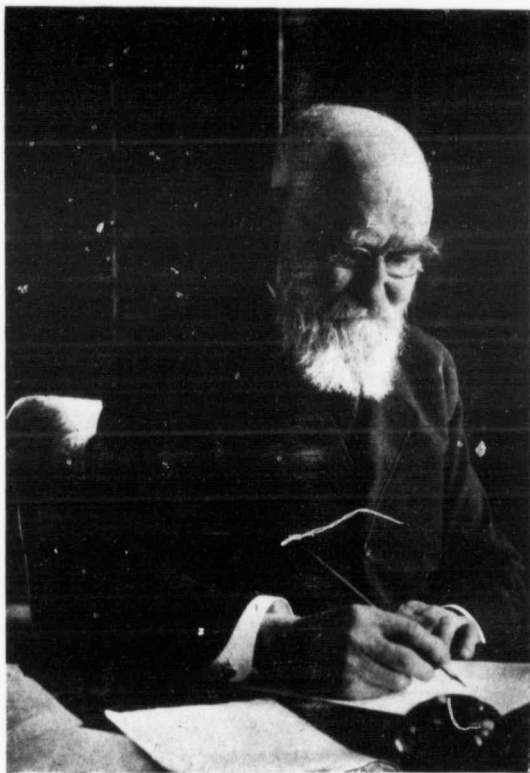
cultural Committee to give a description of the country, and after his address the following resolution was passed:

House of Commons,

Ottawa, 23rd Jan., 1906.

"Moved by Mr. Derbyshire,
Seconded by Mr. Wright, (Renfrew)

"That the thanks of this Committee be now tendered to Mr. John Macoun, Naturalist to the Geological Survey Department of Canada.



PROF. JOHN MACOUN.

for the valuable information laid by him before the Committee, on the natural capabilities of that large section of Western Canada extending from Edmonton to Portage la Prairie, on the occasion of his appearance before us, on this subject.

"The Committee desire also to record their appreciation of the valuable services Mr. Macoun has rendered to Canada in the past thirty years of his arduous official services as a