

THIRD.—Prof. Macoun delivered, on Thursday, the 19th January, an address on “Our Forest Trees,” considered both from the geological records, and from their present occurrence. The concluding portion of the address, calling attention to the enormous annual waste of our forests, due to careless lumbering, and frequent bush fires, appealed especially to the audience, for at Ottawa people have continual evidences of this destruction presented to them.

With reference to the lecturer’s theory that our trees originated in the north and had been gradually pressed southward by the increasing cold of their original habitat, the Rev. Prof. Marsan asked why more species of trees were not now found in Europe, where the climate more nearly resembles that of the Tertiary period, than in Canada. In reply Prof. Macoun explained that the area of Europe had once been much greater, but owing to subsidence large tracts had been covered by the sea, and with the increasing cold the trees were driven seaward and finally became extinct, whereas on the American continent the species had an uninterrupted retreat southward. Mr. Ami made some interesting remarks on the cretaceous formations discovered by Dr. Dawson in British Columbia, and the great forests and animals of which they give evidence, and which show the same agreement with the flora and fauna of Japan at that time, as the present forests of that country do to those of America as pointed out by the lecturer. Prof. Macoun mentioned that at that remote time the Rocky Mountains had not yet been upheaved, and that a vast plain—more or less undulating and broken—stretched from the Laurontides to the Pacific, and probably even to Japan. Mr. George Holland did not think that the citizens of Ottawa could be accused of indifference in regard to the action of the mill-owners in filling the river with sawdust, as they had no means of preventing it. In the destruction of our forests there was a race between the lumberman and the settler, and by much the greater damage was done by the latter. He was obliged under the laws of the Province from which he obtained his land to destroy a certain quantity of the forest on penalty of eviction, and in his anxiety and endeavour to do so, more of the forest was destroyed in one year by fire, than would be cut down in a decade by the lumberman whose interest it was to conserve his limits. Mr. H. B. Small desired to thank the lecturer for the