

Dr. ROBERT BELL, F.R.S.,
Acting Director, Geological Survey,
Ottawa.

SIR,—Pursuant to your instructions I left Ottawa on the 4th of May and travelling by the usual routes reached Edmonton on the 11th. I was joined there by Mr. William Spreadborough who acted as my assistant during the summer and together we drove to Athabasca Landing where we remained until May 23rd, when we were enabled to take passage on a Hudson's Bay Company's York boat bound for Lesser Slave lake. After a short delay on the lake, caused by the ice not yet having broken up, we reached the trading post at the head of the lake on June 2nd. Horses and wagons having been hired there, we drove to Peace River Landing where I expected to be able to buy horses, but finding none for sale I was very glad to hire a pack-train for the summer at a reasonable rate. In the report which follows, the route travelled until I arrived again at Lesser Slave lake in September is described in detail. From Lesser Slave lake to Ottawa I travelled by the same route as that by which I entered the country. A large collection of natural history specimens was made during the summer. These include most of the plants and insects seen, as well as a very fine representation of the birds and small mammals collected by Mr. Spreadborough.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

JAMES M. MACOUN.

OTTAWA, 15th December, 1903.