

## ON A TOOTH OF OVIBOS, FROM PLEISTOCENE GRAVELS NEAR MIDWAY, B.C.\*

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An upper molar tooth of a ruminant has lately been presented to the Geological Survey by Mr. C. B. Bash, of Greenwood, British Columbia, who states in a letter accompanying the specimen that it is from Rock Creek about eight miles above its entry into Kettle River, and about four miles north of the International Boundary. Rock Creek joins Kettle River from the west about thirteen miles west of Midway. The tooth was found on a rock surface beneath a deposit of unconsolidated gravel, about two hundred feet in thickness, in a tunnel run into a hill in connection with placer mining.

The tooth received from Mr. Bash is the posterior true molar from the right side, and is referred provisionally to the genus *Ovibos*. In comparison with the corresponding tooth of an adult male musk-ox (*O. moschatus*, Zimm.) from Fort Rae, Great Slave Lake, in the Museum of the Geological Survey, it is seen to be slightly smaller and less robust but otherwise remarkably similar.

Remains, principally the hinder portion of skulls with horn-cores attached, from the Pleistocene of the United States, have been assigned to the genus *Ovibos* or related genera under a number of specific names, some of which are apparently synonyms. *Ovibos bombifrons* (Harlan) is from the Pleistocene of Kentucky; *O. cavifrons* (Leidy) is recorded from deposits of the same age in Indian Territory, Missouri, Kentucky, Ohio, Iowa, and Alaska, and both were included by Leidy in his genus *Boötherium*. A third species is *O. appalachicolus* (Rhoads), from the Pleistocene of Pennsylvania.

There are few records of the finding of the remains of *Ovibos* in Pleistocene deposits in Canada. Dr. George M. Dawson, in his Summary Report for 1898, p. 19 A, mentions the finding of portions of a skull of a musk-ox in old gravel deposits (Pleistocene) near Edmonton, Alberta. In his Report on the Klondike Gold Fields, 1905, p. 29B, Mr. R. G. McConnell refers to musk-ox, mammoth, buffalo, bear and mountain sheep and goat remains in the "low level creek gravels" of the Klondike district which are most probably of Pleistocene age, judging from the occurrence of mammoth bones in them. Lydekker in his Catalogue of Fossil Mammalia in the British Museum, pt. II, 1885, p. 39, refers, under the heading *Ovibos moschatus*, to a specimen

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