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THE LAND AND FRESHWATER SHELLS OF ALBERTA.

BY REV. GEO. W. TAYLOR, F. R. S. C. (Nanaimo, B. C.)

Very little has been published up to the present time on the Mollusca of the District of Alberta.

The first naturalist to pay any attention to the subject was, I believe, Dr. G. M. Dawson, who, 20 years ago (1873-74), was acting as naturalist to the British North American Boundary Commission, and who published (in 1875) as an appendix to his report, a list of the land and freshwater shells that he had obtained during the progress of the boundary expedition.

Though most of his shells were collected in the neighbourhood of the Lake of the Woods and in other places in Manitoba and Assiniboia, Dr. Dawson obtained a few species in Alberta, the most notable being a fine variety of *Patula strigosa* which was found near Waterton Lake at the base of the Rocky Mountains and just within the boundaries of the district. At the time this shell was thought to be an undescribed species and was named by Dr. Dawson *Helix limitaris*.

Since the date of Dr. Dawson's explorations Alberta has on several occasions been visited by members of the staff of the Geological Survey and I have seen in the Museum at Ottawa some interesting species collected by them; but as no record of these shells appears to have been published, and I am ignorant of the precise localities whence they came, I do not like to include them in the present list.

Three years ago Mr. T. E. Bean, the well known lepidopterist of Laggan (which place is close to the Western boundary of Alberta) began to investigate the shells of his neighbourhood and very kindly gave me specimens of all the species he observed. In the autumn of 1893 I had the pleasure of spending two days at Laggan in Mr. Bean's