

30.—PROPOSALS FOR A NOMENCLATURE OF UNNAMED NEW BRUNSWICK HILLS AND MOUNTAINS.

(Read December 5th, 1899).

It is a fact that the great majority of New Brunswick hills and mountains, including some of the very finest, are to-day quite nameless. In the settled districts, it is true, they are mostly named, but most of New Brunswick is unsettled. This seems the more remarkable when it is recalled that practically all of our streams and lakes, even to small brooks and ponds, and in the wildest parts of the province, are named. But for this the reason is plain. Our water-courses have a relation to our interests through their use for lumbering, hunting and fishing; hence they must often be spoken of, and names for them arise. But our mountains only exceptionally affect our interests in these or other ways, hence are rarely spoken of, and names do not arise for them. Such is the condition at present, but it will not always be so. As the province becomes settled, as hunters and tourists visit it more, as a provincial literature arises, as forestry becomes systematized, as maps become more accurate and detailed, as scientific explorations become more extended and minute, a need for names for our mountains will be felt, and they will gradually come into use. Unless, however, some broad and consistent plan for the giving of such names be adopted, those which will arise will be often of the most trivial, inappropriate and inconvenient sort. One has only to instance the very numerous and confusing Bald Mountains.* Is it not possible to inaugurate some plan which will provide for our mountains a convenient, appropriate and pleasing nomenclature? Certainly such a matter is eminently one for consideration by this Society.

If now, we pass to details, three questions arise: first, what kind of names should be given; second, what shall determine the adoption of proposed names; third, how may they be introduced into general circulation? We may most conveniently consider these questions in reverse order.

How many names, deliberately given, be introduced into general circulation? Guides, lumbermen, and most others who are much in

* Attention was first called to incongruities and inconveniences in our place-nomenclature by Professor Bailey (*Mines and Minerals of N. B.*, 1864, pp. 8, 9).