

COMMISSION OF CONSERVATION; FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT.
This very useful report was recently issued.

In his annual address, the Chairman of the Commission, Hon. Clifford Sifton, discusses the Commission's activities with respect to waters and water-powers, minerals, public health, agriculture, fisheries and fur-bearing animals and forests, indicating clearly and succinctly a number of the problems that had been grappled with and the advances that had been made in their solution.

Several articles appear in the report which are of special interest to naturalists. Mr. J. Walter Jones treats in detail of the progress in fur-farming in Canada during the past year. The work of the Committee on Fisheries was confined, during 1913, chiefly to the development of the oyster industry. Hon. A. E. Arsenault describes the new method of leasing oyster beds in Prince Edward Island. This method was advocated by the Commission two years ago, and will do much to regenerate the oyster industry in the Maritime Provinces. An exceedingly interesting paper on the "Protection of Migratory Birds" is given by a leading American authority, Mr. W. S. Haskell, who urges Canada to join with the United States in providing sanctuaries for these birds.

Considerable advance has been made in the conservation of forests during the year. The Commission has co-operated with the Board of Railway Commissioners and the several provincial and Federal forest services concerning the prevention of forest fires, with the result that much has been done to prevent forest fires along railway lines, especially in Western Canada. In addition to the report of the chief forester, Mr. Clyde Leavitt, there are addresses on forestry by Dr. B. E. Fernow and Mr. R. H. Campbell.

The report contains a number of splendid illustrations and gives in concise form much information that is of value to all Canadians interested in the conservation of our natural resources.

MEETING OF THE BOTANICAL BRANCH.

The Botanical Branch held the first of its bi-monthly winter meetings at the residence of Mr. R. B. Whyte, on Saturday evening, November 14. The meeting was in charge of Mr. W. T. Macoun, Dr. M. O. Malte, and Mr. G. H. Clark. There were also present the following members: Messrs. Attwood,