

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
Nova Scotian Institute of Natural Science.

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VOL. II. PART III.

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ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

IN accordance with the Bye-Laws of this Institute, the Anniversary Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 14, 1868, at 8 p. m., when the following gentlemen were elected office bearers for the ensuing year:—

*President*—J. MATTHEW JONES, F. L. S.

*Vice-Presidents*—J. BERNARD GILPIN, M. D., J. R. DEWOLF, M. D.

*Treasurer*—W. C. SILVER.

*Hon. Secretary*—W. GOSSIP.

*Council*—P. S. HAMILTON, JOS. BELL, Capt. KING, R. A., J. RUTHERFORD, Captain L'ESTRANGE, R. A., T. F. KNIGHT, Dr. A. C. COGSWELL, F. ALLISON.

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ORDINARY MEETING, NOVEMBER 9, 1868.

J. M. JONES, *President, in the Chair.*

Dr. J. B. GILPIN read a paper "*On Nova Scotian Mammals,*" describing the Black Bear (*Ursus Americanus,*) Red Squirrel (*Sciurus Hudsonius,*) Ground Squirrel (*Tamias striata,*) Flying Squirrel (*Pteromys sabrinus*) and others. The paper was illustrated by drawings of each species. (*See Transactions.*)

Mr. GEORGE PIERS observed that the Red Squirrel although abundant some years, was scarce in others, and he attributed this to a migratory habit of the species.

The PRESIDENT stated that some few years ago as some spruce trees were being felled near his house, the nest of a Flying Squirrel was shaken to the ground, with young ones in it. It was merely placed like the nest of the Red Squirrel, in the angle of the branch against the trunk.

Mr. PIERS said it was not unusual for the Red Squirrel to take possession of the nests of the Flying Squirrel, instead of making a nest of its own.

The PRESIDENT read a note "*On a gigantic Squid (ommastrephes) taken at Cape Sable.*" (*See Appendix.*)

Col. L'ESTRANGE, R. A., alluding to the habits of the cephalopods, stated that while bathing some years ago in a river on the Coast of Africa, he was attacked by a large Octopus, and only escaped by the merest chance, for as it was, he had the whole of his chest torn as with a saw, and lost much blood.

A fine specimen of the Carolina Dove (*Columba Carolinensis*) shot by Capt. L'Estrange, R. A. near this City, was exhibited; and the Secretary brought to the notice of the meeting a species of sponge which had been forwarded to him by the Rev. W. LeGallais, from Burnt Island, Newfoundland.

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ORDINARY MEETING, DECEMBER 14, 1868.

J. M. JONES, *President, in the Chair.*

Mr. R. G. HALIBURTON, F. S. A. read a paper "*On the Geology of the Pictou Coal Field.*" (See Transactions.)

Capt. L'ESTRANGE, R. A. exhibited the head of a cottoid fish, which he had found hanging upon a tree, near Birch Cove Lakes.

In closing the proceedings of the evening, the President congratulated the members upon the present appearance of the Institute Room, which had been recently re-arranged, and the gas and stove fittings placed in more convenient situations. A series of glazed table cases had also been added, in which the typical specimens illustrating the papers of members could be placed, thus forming the commencement of what he hoped would in a few years, form into a well proportioned Museum.

Member elected.—Alderman SINCLAIR.

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ORDINARY MEETING, JANUARY 18, 1869.

J. M. JONES, *President, in the Chair.*

Mr. RUTHERFORD read a paper "*On a peculiarity in the Blockhouse Coal Seam, at Cow Bay, Cape Breton.*" (See Transactions.) Carefully prepared diagrams, shewing the nature of the overlying deposits illustrated the paper.

Mr. FOORD read a paper "*On Gems and their application to the Arts.*" (See Transactions.)

During the discussion which followed the reading of this paper, it was stated that a diamond had been found some years ago in King's Co., N. S., which on being forwarded to New York, sold for \$160.

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ORDINARY MEETING, FEBRUARY 8, 1869.

J. M. JONES, *President, in the Chair.*

The Secretary (Mr. W. GOSSIP) read a paper "*On the Antiquity of Man in America.*" (See Transactions.)

The President read a paper by the Rev. C. J. S. BETHUNE, of Credit Ontario (Secretary of the Entomological Society of Canada,) "*On Nova Scotian Lepidoptera.*"—(See Transactions.)

The paper was the result of an examination of a collection forwarded to the author by the President. One species of *Anarta* was new to the Canadian fauna, and Mr. BETHUNE proposed for its specific name *Acadiensis*.

Associate Member elected.—Mr. ANGUS ROSS, of Goldenville, Guysboro'.

## ORDINARY MEETING, MARCH 8, 1869.

J. M. JONES, *President, in the Chair.*

The President read a letter from HENRY POOLE, Esq., of the Caledonia Coal Mines, Little Glace Bay, Cape Breton, which included a diary kept by him while at the Albion Mines, Pictou. It described the circumstances which attended the finding on the 17th March, 1860, of a piece of wood 3½ feet below the surface of the ground, while the men were engaged in cutting a drain at Fraser Mine, Pictou. This piece of wood, three feet long, showed marks of having been cut by an axe; while the trees growing above the spot were two feet in diameter; and he had counted 230 rings of annual growth in the hemlock tree cut down just over the chopped piece of wood. On this occurrence Mr. POOLE propounded the following queries:—Who could have been cutting wood two and a half centuries ago, so far from the Harbour? Was Pictou harbour known to Europeans at that time? or, Were the Indians at that time acquainted with and using iron axes?

The Secretary in reference to the first query, stated that DeMonts and Poutrincourt arrived in Nova Scotia, in the spring of 1604, and Les Carbot in 1606, and made a Settlement at Port Royal, (Annapolis.) At that time, *two hundred and sixty-five years ago*, there was considerable traffic in furs between the Micmacs and the Frenchmen on the St. Lawrence, Tadoussac on the Saguenay, being then the chief French settlement. The Indians at Port Royal had iron implements in their possession, which they obtained from traders, but no fire arms. There was then resident near Campseau (Canso,) which was well known, an old trader, a Frenchman of St. John de Lus, who had made forty-two voyages between Europe and these parts. Pictou harbour probably, and all the harbours of the coast, were then well known to Europeans.

A specimen of the Carolina Dove (*Columba Carolinensis*), forwarded by Mr. POOLE, of Glace Bay, C. B., was exhibited. It had been shot in that locality recently.

Mr. T. F. KNIGHT read a paper "*On Natural History and its place in the Sciences.*" (See Transactions.)

The Secretary (Mr. W. GOSSIP), concluded the reading of a paper "*On the Antiquity of Man in America.*"

Members elected.—Professor H. V. HIND; Messrs. E. MOSELEY, FRED. D. ALLISON, AUG. ALLISON, WILLIAM BARNES.

## ORDINARY MEETING, APRIL 13, 1869.

J. M. JONES, *President, in the Chair.*

Mr. P. S. HAMILTON (by request) read a paper by Professor DAWSON, F. R. S., entitled "*Notes on new points and connections in Acadian Geology.*"—(See Appendix.)

Mr. ALLISON (by request) read a paper by Mr. HENRY POOLE, "*On the Meteorology of the Glace Bay Coal District, Cape Breton, 1868.*"—(See Transactions.)

Mr. ALLISON afterwards compared the temperature of Halifax with that of Glace Bay, and showed that the mean temp. of Glace Bay was  $2^{\circ} 83'$  below that of Halifax. The mean temp. of each month was also lowest at Glace Bay. The minimum temp.  $2^{\circ}$  below, and the maximum temp. just the same.

Professor H. V. HIND followed with "*Remarks upon the Geology of the Waverley Gold Fields.*" (See Transactions.)

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ORDINARY MEETING, MAY 10, 1869.

J. M. JONES, *President, in the Chair.*

Mr. F. ALLISON read a paper, "*Meteorological Observations at Halifax, 1868.*" (See Transactions.)

Dr. J. B. GILPIN read a "*Note on the Walrus (*Trichecus rosmarus*) recently brought from Newfoundland.*" (See Transactions.)

An excellent drawing illustrated the paper.

Dr. A. C. COGSWELL exhibited several highly interesting microscopic forms, including *Trichina spiralis*, obtained from the human subject at Philadelphia.

Mr. A. DOWNS exhibited a fine male specimen of the Scarlet Tanager, (*Pyraya rubra*), which had been recently shot near Halifax.

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EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING, JUNE 14, 1869.

J. M. JONES, *President, in the Chair.*

Professor HOW submitted a paper "*On Coals and allied Minerals.*"—(See Transactions.)

Mr. HALIBURTON communicated a paper "*On an important reclamation of Land in Sackville, N. B.*" By R. CARR HARRIS.—(See Appendix.)

Mr. J. M. JONES read a paper "*On Nova Scotia Coleoptera.*"—(See Transactions.)

J. M. J.