

July 12

Institute of Natural Science Its Last Monthly Meeting.

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The Institute of Natural Science met

in the Provincial Museum on Mon-
day evening. Dr. Somers presided.

The following statement was made by the
Secretary: "At almost every meeting of the
Council there are laid on the table numerous

and valuable exchanges from foreign Socie-
ties. These are from Norway, Russia,
Finland, Italy, Austria, France, Germany,
England, Scotland, Ireland, Australia,
Canada, United States, Brazil, and Mexico.

Our transactions are in great demand—un-
fortunately too much so for our limited
supply. We have applications for sets from
the Library of the Museum of Natural His-
tory, South Kensington, from the North of

England Institute of Mining and Mechan-
ical Engineers, with offers of exchange of
publications, and from the Department of
the Interior, Washington, for the use of the
Geological and Geographical Survey of the
United States, with like offers of exchange.

The supply of the Institute can only
partially meet these applications, as several
"transactions" are out of print, and we
have no funds to meet the expense of re-
printing them. Even the recent volume of

1879-80 is exhausted, not one copy being left.
This is much to be regretted. If some
patriotic Nova Scotian would give to our
Treasurer four or five hundred dollars, he

would be a benefactor to his country and to
science."

The papers read at the meeting were:—
Notes by Dr. Honeyman on auriferous
and other metalliferous sands. The first
specimen examined was auriferous sand, from
Geoggin Point, Yarmouth County. The
chief constituents of this are gold, garnets,
magnetite and silica. The garnets are de-
rived from the micaceous schists of the
Point, which are replete with garnets. There
are numerous veins of quartz in these rocks
which were said to be auriferous. The oc-
currence of gold in the sand seems to con-
firm this statement. The source of the
magnetite is yet to be ascertained. The find-
ing of gold in this association is regarded as
singular in our gold fields. Its connection
with gems and magnetite is considered as
bringing our gold deposits into relation with
those of other lands where gold and gems are
associated. Foreign specimens from the
museum were exhibited in illustration. The
second specimen examined was of magnetite
sand from Cape Breton, which also abounds
in garnets. The third was of magnetite and
garnet sands from Sable Island, collected by
Mr. S. D. Macdonald. The fourth was of
similar sand, supposed to be from Newfound-
land—a museum specimen. The fifth was
from Cape Rosier, Quebec, collected by Mr.
Macdonald. With the exception of the
first none of the specimens show the deposits
to be auriferous. It is reported that Sable
Island sands are auriferous.

Mr. Macdonald's notes which were read
by Dr. Honeyman, gave an account of his
visit to Sable Island last summer and his ex-
amination of its deposits. His account is
very interesting. He went, expecting to find
gold in the sands but he did not find any.

He observed, however, a very beautiful sec-
tion showing the arrangement of the mag-
netite sands. He also gave a description of
Cape Rosier, and a detailed account of its
rocks. The magnetite sand was collected on
the shore. The archæan, granitic and syene-
tic greis; boulders show quartz and grains of
magnetite. This is sufficient to indicate the
sources of the constituents of the sand.

The second paper read by Dr. Honeyman
was "On a new carboniferous flora found in
East Colchester county." These were dis-
covered during the course of investigations
in the geology of Colchester last autumn.

The character of the rocks containing them
was perplexing until they were met with.
Their partly subserial character was then
ascertained. The sequence of the rocks
showed that those containing strata are of
lower carboniferous age. The flora is differ-
ent from any yet known as far as authorities
consulted show. They are considered as
indicative of the age of the rocks containing
the iron deposits of Guysbord county, and
also as having a bearing on the controversy
relating to the age of rocks in New Brun-
swick and their flora. Specimens have been
forwarded to the distinguished palae botan-
ist, Mr. Carrutgers, F. R. S., F. G. S., of
the British Museum, for examination and
description.

Dr. Somers exhibited and explained a di-
sected heart of a male moose. Its great size
was noised, being larger than the heart of
an ox. A bone in it was examined and re-
marks were made upon its form, portions
and functions. This bone is to be prepared
for examination at another meeting. The
proceedings of the meeting were very inter-
esting and instructive.

