

THE BLUE JAY

The official organ of the Yorkton Natural History Society
-Editor - Isabel M. Priestly

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During the last few months most of the letters which have come in, have, in one way or another, contained some reference to conservation matters. Many of our correspondents are extremely pessimistic with regard to the future of our native wildlife, so it was cheering to receive a letter from an old-timer now living in Winnipeg, who views the situation from a different angle. After saying some very nice things about the "Blue Jay", the writer states - "When we first came to Saskatchewan from England in 1911 people seldom mentioned the birds and flowers or took any interest in them. How different the situation is today!"

Another encouraging sign is the good response to the efforts of the Regina Natural History Society and our own Yorkton group for the protection of Saskatchewan's provincial floral emblem, the Red Lily.

An event which should also do much to create greater interest in native wildlife is the re-opening of the Provincial Museum in Regina. Blue Jay members know we have always held that the Provincial Museum should be the main source of information for the people of Saskatchewan as regards the natural history of the province. The day is long past when museums were "dry as dust" affairs, - nowadays museums are recognized as an important factor in the educational and cultural life of a community - even during the war years new museums were being opened in England. The collections already in the Provincial Museum are second to none and we may well be proud of them. They must, however, be steadily augmented if the museum is to take its place as an effective educational force in the province, and, since the museum is a provincial institution, it is up to all of us to take an active interest in its development.

Isabel M. Priestly,
President.

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