

moulded by the defeats of man through the diseases spread by rats than the victorious armies of kings. The rat has killed scores of millions of humans. We should mobilize all our resources to exterminate it once and for all.

The Rodents are completed in Saskatchewan by two forms of Jumping Mice if the Prairie Jumping Mouse resides here, otherwise only the Saskatchewan form may be found and finally the Nebraska Yellow-haired Porcupine.

The Lagomorphs are represented in Canada by 31 forms but only 3 may be met in Saskatchewan — the White-tailed Jack Rabbit, American Varying Hare and Black Hills Cottontail. The Nebraska Cottontail is on the Hypothetical List and may have reached our area. The Lagomorphs have recently been separated from the Rodents with which they were long included on the basis of certain anatomical differences, some of which are obvious to the layman, such as the development of the legs which indeed gave rise to the term "lagomorph"; the teeth are different as well, pikas, hares and rabbits have four incisors in the upper jaw whereas rodents have two, and the incisors of lagomorphs have protecting enamel over much of the inside sur-

faces as well as over all the front surface while rodents have enamel on the front of the incisors only.

The final group is the Even-toed Ungulates or Hoofed Mammals of which there are 36 forms in Canada: 23 deer, 1 Pronghorn and 12 Bovidae, that is, Bison, Muskoxen, Sheep and Goats. The Manitoba Elk may be here (definitely in the Canadian Zone of Moose Mountain), certainly the Northern Plains White-tailed Deer but Mule Deer may not range on to the Regina Plains. While Moose Jaw has a legend concerning the origin of its name, and while the odd relics of Moose are picked up occasionally on the Plains, it does not seem likely that Moose considered the Transition Zone its normal habitat in historical times if the type of country it inhabits today is any indication—it has always been associated with Canadian Zone throughout North America; similarly with the European form, known there as Elk. The Plains Bison is extinct in the wild state, while the modern form of Muskoxen appear to be confined to the Hudsonian Zone or tundra. Mountain Sheep and Mountain Goats complete the Canadian Check-list—we have neither mountains, nor sheep, nor goats.

Frank Brazier

FRANK BAINES HEADS SALTCOATS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

An organization meeting of the Saltcoats and district Conservation Society was held in the Saltcoats Fire Hall on Friday evening, August 20th. Officers elected were: President, Frank Baines; Vice-President, George Wiley; Secretary, Miss Patsy Hodgins; Executive, Jim Murray and L. R. Lordly. Membership fees were set at 50c for adults, 25c for high school students and 10c for public school students.

The meeting voted to affiliate with the Saskatchewan Natural History Society and adopt the "BLUE JAY" as the official bulletin of the new Society. Several projects were discussed. A delegation will attend the annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society in Yorkton

on Saturday, October 23rd. The first public meeting at Saltcoats will be held after harvest.

INTERESTING BIRDS

(Continued from Page 26)

Woodpecker appeared around the nearest tree trunk. On the other side, where a clump of Saskatoon and Raspberry bushes grew, a Robin and two Waxwings were eating the berries. Later when picking Saskatoons, I noticed little three-cornered nips in the berries. Do the saucy fellows taste them before eating them? When startled they all fly up into the tall pine trees, and you wouldn't know there were any birds around.

Squirrels are plentiful here too. One amused us by scampering across the clearing with a whole slice of toast in his mouth. I could just hear him call "Breakfast is ready children".