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Occurrence of *Megalomus canadensis*, Hall, in the LeClaire at Port Byron, Illinois

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Wells drilled on the higher ground at Hopkinton, reach the Maquoketa shales at a depth of 90 feet. The bed of the river at the mill at South Hopkinton, must be within a few feet of the shales. Owing to the reversal of the dip the *Pentamerus* beds that are exposed at the surface at Hopkinton are found at "Devil's Back Bone," in northwestern Delaware, and the cleft casts of the ventral valve are known to the summer visitors of that somewhat noted locality, as the "Devil's Claws". The same beds extend over into northeastern Buchanan, and anywhere in that region the shales may be reached at a depth of about 100 feet.

The proximity of the shales to the surface over so wide an area is not without its economic significance. The surface of the shales is everywhere a water-bearing horizon, and so unfailling wells may be obtained over many square miles by boring to only a moderate depth. The drouth of last summer has turned the attention of farmers, especially the cultivators of vegetables and small fruits, to the desirability and practicability of irrigation, and there has been manifested a very general desire for information as to the depth at which unfailling supplies of water may be reached. The next summer will witness some practical experiments in this direction, particularly at Hopkinton, and the water supply, it is expected, will be found in the Maquoketa shales.

OCCURRENCE OF *MEGALOMUS CANADENSIS*, HALL,
IN THE LECLAIRE BEDS AT PORT BYRON,
ILLINOIS.

BY WILLIAM HARMON NORTON.

This common fossil of the Guelph of Canada has not been noted in the Le Claire beds of Iowa, or their immediate extension into adjacent states. Its occurrence, therefore, at Port Byron, Illinois, in the Barrett quarries one and one-half miles north of the town, is of special interest, since it shows a range

much further to the west than hitherto observed, and a comingling of the Guelph and Niagara faunas in the Le Claire, similar to that in the so-called Guelph of Wisconsin. The specimens are well preserved, casts of the normal type not conforming to the variety of *M. Compressus*.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATE FAUNA.

BY C. C. NUTTING, CHAIRMAN.

In November last the chairman of this committee sent out a number of postal cards to the zoologists of the Academy, requesting them to forward their notes regarding the appearance of animals new to the state or to certain localities, and any items of interest concerning the geographical distribution of the animals of Iowa. The response was anything but encouraging, as only three members made any answer whatever, and none of these had more than a single note to offer. This will account, in part at least, for the meagreness of this report.

MAMMALS.

No mammals have been reported new to the state.

The timber wolf, *Canis lupus*, seems to be increasing in numbers in the northern part of Iowa.

The red fox, *Vulpes velox*, seems to be getting more common in the southeastern part of the state. The first certain record for Johnson county was a specimen killed by Earl T. Bane, on November 26, 1894, and presented to the State University museum.

The little striped skunk, *Mephitis putorius*, Linn, has been known for several years to be common in Johnson county. The first specimens authoritatively identified, however, were brought to the university by Mr. J. M. Adams, October, 1894.

Franklin's spermophile, *Spermophilus franklini*, Sab., formerly common in Johnson county, is now becoming quite rare. Collectors from the university were unable to secure specimens during the last spring.

Prairie hare, *Lepus campestris*, Bach., is still increasing in the northern part of the state, and invading the southern part.