THE MATAMEK CONFERENCE ON BIOLOGICAL CYCLES, 1931

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During the last week of July, 1931, a biological conference of exceptional interest was held at the mouth of the Matamek River. This place is on the north side of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, 300 miles east of Quebec. The conference was called by Mr. Copley Amory, of Boston, and all its members were his guests. For years Mr. Amory has been interested in the fact that sometimes the fish, birds and mammals of that part of Canada are very abundant, and sometimes, for no apparent reason, very scarce. He has seen years when the cod were extremely abundant, and other years when practically no fish were caught. Salmon and all the animal population vary in the same inexplicable way. Therefore, at his summer home on the Matamek, Mr. Amory brought together about thirty scientists and Canadian officials to consider the problem of fluctuations among wild life.

The conference began in Quebec where its members were tendered an official luncheon at the beautiful Falls of Montmorency. Honorable Hector LaFerté, Provincial Minister of Colonization, Game and Fisheries, presided, and twenty or thirty other officials were present. The Canadian government as well as that of the Province of Quebec was much interested in the conference. Not only did Dr. Charles Camsell, Administrator of the Department of Mines, act as chairman, but the Forestry Branch, National Parks Branch, Department of Fisheries, National Museum, and Dominion Observatory were all officially represented. The interest of the Canadians was also evident in the fact that the Lower St. Lawrence Trans-