

GEORGE FREDERICK DIPPIE

1873 - 1935

There died at Calgary, Alberta, on February 14th, 1935, a man whose good fortune it was to have been a pioneer in natural history collecting in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Fred Dippie was born on September 3rd, 1873, at Scarborough, Yorkshire; he early came under the influence of the Scarborough naturalist, W. J. Clarke, and from him learned something of taxidermy, and a great deal of general natural history. Coming to Toronto with his parents in 1892, he found employment with Oliver Spanner and soon became a competent taxidermist under that able tutor. A knowledge of Canadian birds was quickly gained from field collecting and from the material passing through Mr. Spanner's establishment. In 1893, Fred Dippie collected birds and eggs at Reaburn, Manitoba, with short trips to Lake Manitoba, returning to Toronto on June 23rd. 1894 was spent at Toronto, with short collecting trips. During 1895 Fred Dippie was absent from Toronto from June 15th to September 18th, collecting in Alberta, principally at Blindman River, Buffalo Lake and Red Deer; returning to Calgary in August, he

visited Banff, making important collections there of birds and small mammals.

May to October, 1896, were spent at Calgary, at the shack of his friend Fred Milner on the Blindman River, and at Burnt Lake near Red Deer. This was repeated in 1897. In 1898 collections were made at Rush Lake in Saskatchewan and at Banff, Alberta. At the latter place, special attention was paid to small mammals.

In 1899, collections were made at Banff. I have no record of 1900 but the summer was probably spent at Calgary. In 1901, Fred Dippie settled permanently at Calgary, forming a partnership with W. Grant Mackay under the name of Mackay and Dippie Ltd., Fur Dealers and Taxidermists. From this time on, there was little field collecting; the firm had a branch at Banff and here Fred Dippie spent most of his summers. In Calgary he was known as a successful business man but there were few who knew of his contributions to the natural history of the Canadian west.

Fred Dippie was careful in all he did, his specimens were well prepared and his data accurate.—J. H. FLEMING.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

BOTANICAL MEETING IN NOVA SCOTIA. — A joint meeting of the Botanical Society of America and the American Society of Plant Taxonomists was held at Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, August 18-21, 1937.

Ideal weather favoured the carrying out of a programme which consisted largely of field excursions. Informal discussions and the care of plants presses occupied the evenings.

Registration was held during the afternoon of Wednesday, the 18th, and was followed by an inspection of the laboratories of the Biology Department. In the evening, Dr. F. W. Patterson, President of Acadia University, and the Honourable John A. MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture for the Province of Nova Scotia, welcomed the visitors to Acadia and to the

province. Dr. E. W. Sinnott, President of the Botanical Society of America, and Dr. H. A. Gleason, President of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists, replied to the words of welcome and gave short botanical addresses. Following this formal meeting, interest centered about an interesting exhibit of about 125 species of fleshy fungi prepared by Mr. K. A. Harrison of the Dominion Experimental Station at Kentville.

On Thursday morning there was an excursion to the Dominion Experimental Station at Kentville. Dr. W. S. Blair, Superintendent, conducted the party about the Farm and during the picnic luncheon period gave an interesting talk on the history of the Kentville Station. The afternoon was featured by field trips, first to a new salt marsh being formed at Wolfville from



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