

STRANGE ANIMAL RELICS ARE SHOWN

PREHISTORIC AUSTRALIA

Material Brought From Southern Continent by Field Museum Expedition Are Inter- esting Features

Giant kangaroos, of a type now long extinct, and the queer prehistoric Australian animal called diprotodon are the subjects of one of the series of paintings restoring scenes on the earth in past ages, recently hung in Ernest R. Graham hall of historical geology in Field Museum of Natural History. The paintings are a gift to the museum from Ernest R. Graham, one of the institution's trustees, and were executed by Charles R. Knight, of New York, an artist noted for his paleontological studies.

The diprotodons and the giant kangaroos represented in the painting formed a conspicuous part of the Pleistocene fauna of Australia, according to Prof. Elmer S. Riggs, associate curator of paleontology at the museum. The diprotodon was a huge herbivorous animal equalling the rhinoceros in size. Its nearest extant relatives are the Australian wombats. Remains of the diprotodons have been found in large numbers at Lake Kallabonna, South Australia. Prof. Riggs states that the animals probably relied on the lake for their water, and apparently thousands, some of whose bones have been found in recent times, died on the lake bottom when the water evaporated in particularly dry seasons. In the painting the kangaroos are shown disturbed, while feeding, by two diprotodons lumbering out of the woods.

The giant kangaroos are believed to have differed little from their existing relatives except for their greater size. Probably, however, owing to their bulk, their agility in jumping was less than that of modern forms. Both kangaroos and diprotodons belonged to the marsupials, that primitive order of pouched mammals whose young are born in an immature condition, and complete their development in the mother's pouch. The opossum is the only North American member of the order.

The vast majority of Australian mammals are marsupials, and this may be accounted for by the fact that Australia has been separated from other continents for millions of years, says Prof. Riggs, thus giving the marsupials already there the opportunity to develop along their own lines without any competition from

invading forms. The order, almost exterminated elsewhere by the more efficient higher animals, has in Australia paralleled the development of nearly every other order, evolving gnawing forms, carnivorous forms, insectivorous forms, frugivorous forms, herbivorous forms — in short, has a peopled a world of its own, and has made Australia the most peculiar zoological region on earth.

COUNTY OFFICERS BEGIN NEW TERMS

Lake county officers, who were elected Nov. 6, assumed office on their new terms Monday. Of the five men, all are incumbents.

L. O. Brockway, recorder, oldest in the service of the county, by virtue of having served 28 years, begins his eighth term.

Coroner J. L. Taylor of Libertyville, coroner since 1904, is starting on his seventh term.

States Attorney A. V. Smith, who has completed his eighth year, is among those taking office Monday.

L. J. Wilmot, who became circuit clerk four years ago when the population of the county grew to such proportions as to demand the dividing of that office from that of recorder, also takes up his usual duties.

Charles Russell, 16 years county surveyor, starts on a new term with the other four men.

HUNTERS WARNED OF DISEASE IN RABBITS

Tularemia May Be Contracted By Humans in Handling Carcasses

With the rabbit season on and anxious nimrods polishing up the trusty shotguns, Dr. Isaac D. Rawlings, state health director, takes occasion to issue a public statement reminding hunters that cottontails in Illinois are frequently infected with tularemia and that this debilitating disease may be transmitted to the careless sportsman. Last year a number of cases occurred in Illinois and all of them were traced to infected rabbits. Danger of contracting the disease is limited almost entirely to the person who dresses the game and to him only when his skin is broken so that blood from the rabbit makes contact with the active blood of the human.

Resourcefulness
"Sam Sloan's that resourceful," said the town philosopher the other day, "he could laugh up his sleeve with only his birthday clothes on."—Farm and Fireside.

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