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# PREHISTORIC GROUP

cal Monsters Pictured in Field Museum

Prehistoric creatures which look like mythical monsters are shown in a large mural painting placed on exhibition today at Field Museum of Natural History. They are reptiles of the Permian period, which lived, according to scientists' estimates, about 215,000,000 years ago. The painting constitutes the latest addition to the series of 28 restorations of prehistoric life which are being installed on the walls of Ernest R. Graham hall in the museum. Charles R. Knight is the artist.

Fin-Back Reptiles

The animals shown in the new paiting include curious fin-back reptiles of two kinds, and several lizard-like reptiles. The "finbacks" were animals remarkable not so much for their size as for their unusual proportions and grotesqueness, states Prof. Elmer S. Riggs, associate curator of paleontology. One of the kinds represented, the Demetrodon, was armed with an ugly series of sharp-pointed teeth which proclaim him an animal of vicious habits and a flesh-eater. On his back, spines arose to a height equal to the length of his body, and these were covered with a membranous covering which extended along the back and forme da great fin-like projection.

Naosaurus, the other fin-back, was quite similar in appearance, but was an inoffensive plant-eater. The lizard-like reptiles, also shown in the painting, while not unlike certain modern lizards, belonged to an old order which has long been extinct.

"Basking along the shores of quiet lagoons, these animals formed a distinctively reptilian community," says Prof. Riggs. "No inquisitive mammals aroused them from their drowsy sleep under tropical suns; no birds perched upon the giant horsetail rushes which bordered the shores. Great dragon-flies may have skimmed over the waters or rested on a snag of a broken tree, but no hum of busy insects filled the air. It was a time of heavy atmosphere and sluggish life, which waited through the long ages until awakening intelligence should should dawn upon the animal world to give more activity to the scene."

The Main Trouble

It is estimated that 20,000 cars will be taken off the roads of the state on account of defective equipment, but defective equipment in the heads of drivers is a greater peril for all who use the roads .- Springfield Republi-

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