

PREHISTORIC MAN IN MANITOBA AND SASKATCHEWAN

By HENRY MONTGOMERY

In July, August, and September of 1907 the writer conducted archeological excavations and other explorations in the Canadian Provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. A large part of this work consisted of the examination and excavation of prehistoric tumuli scattered over the plains, and which were traced for a distance of more than one hundred and fifty miles north of the international boundary. Some of these mounds are circular; others are elongate in form. They vary from 3 to 8 feet in height, and from 20 to 90 feet in diameter. Nine of the twelve mounds fully explored were made of black prairie soil; the remaining three consisted about equally of glacial boulders and earth. The boulders varied from 10 inches to 2 feet in thickness. The presence of the boulders made the work of excavation tedious and difficult; sometimes also the stones crushed into fragments the underlying specimens, which otherwise could have been saved unbroken. Most of the mounds contained human bones along with objects of human workmanship, such as vessels of earthenware, shell spoons, shell beads, pipes and discs of stone, and awls and needles of bone. Many buffalo skulls, and in one mound entire skeletons of buffaloes, were found, the bones being in their natural positions. Burial pits were found in some of them. In each of two mounds as many as three burial pits occurred. There were oak trees, a foot to 15 inches in diameter, growing upon some of the tumuli. Long earthen ridges or grades also occur here. Some digging was done upon them by the writer. The longest of these ridges was found to be about two thousand feet in length.

MOUNDS IN MANITOBA

A Manitoba mound of black soil, $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height and 40 feet in diameter, contained three burial pits nearly circular in form and