

rounded and covered the original interments. A number of relics were found in this tumulus. But few of the mounds in this region remain intact, and steps should be taken immediately to preserve the small number left. The builders of these mounds were doubtless of a different branch from those of the Red River, and communicated directly with the Mississippi by the streams and lakes which practically form a through canoe route. The country to the direct north of the Rainy River has not been explored, so far as I can learn for mound remains, but the broken character of this section, which is of Laurentian formation, rather inclines me to imagine that none will be found there, because the rule is to find the mounds in the most fertile agricultural districts. Lead, mica, asbestos, gold and silver are found in the rocks of the Lake of the Woods, close at hand to the Rainy River, but there is no record of any of these minerals having been unearthed from the mounds. It is true one piece of ore taken from the hand of a skeleton in the Great Mound has been identified by Dr. Bryce as arsenical iron. Many mounds are situated on the streams flowing from the west into the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, and during this week I have received a communication from a friend who has spent some time in the District of Alberta, in which he stated that "the country is rich in mounds." When it is known that numbers of mounds have been located on the Upper Missouri it is not surprising that they also appear on the streams from the Rockies to the north. Thorough exploration is required to give an exact idea of the geographical areas covered by the northern branches of the mound systems of both the Mississippi and Missouri. That the systems of the Red River and Missouri approach each other closely I proved during the past summer. Groups of the first extend to the headwaters of the Pembina and Souris rivers, which are comparatively close to the Missouri and on the old main trail between the Red River and Missouri, which was the route taken by war parties of the Crees, Assiniboines, and Ojibways from the neighbourhood of Lake Winnipeg, and in more modern times by the Red River half-breed buffalo hunters. Living about Lake Winnipeg, the Mound Builders must have known of the Nelson River, leading directly to tide water in Hudson's Bay, and of the great Saskatchewan flowing from the Rocky Mountains with its northern feeders interlocking with those of the Mackenzie. There is much food for thought and investigation in all this, and the subject is well worthy of consideration as serving