

PALEONTOLOGY

Twelve Swamp Dinosaurs Found by Museum Party

Well Preserved Fossil Bones When Assembled Will Probably Form Creatures 25 to 40 Feet Long

TWELVE gigantic prehistoric animals, dinosaurs that roamed lakes and swamps of 125,000,000 years ago, have been discovered by Dr. Barnum Brown, curator of fossil reptiles of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, some 25 miles east of Greybull, Wyo., in the foothills of the Big Horn Mountains.

Enough bones have been uncovered to cause Dr. Brown to feel that "we have stumbled upon one of the greatest fossil mines in the paleontological history of America."

At present the dinosaur remains are simply a large pile of loose bones, but when assembled eventually as museum exhibits their skeletons will probably show that the sauropod dinosaurs, believed to belong to a hitherto unknown species, ranged in size from 25 to 40 feet in length and from 10 to 14 feet in height. They were salamander-like creatures.

Dr. Brown as head of the American Museum-Sinclair dinosaur expedition, has been excavating in the vicinity of Keyhole Canyon since the early part of June and these excavations are now producing dramatic and surprising results. For Dr. Brown had expected to find only two sauropods instead of twelve.

Reconstruction Easy

"To date we have uncovered enough bones spread over a seventy by sixty foot site," stated Dr. Brown, "to feel satisfied that we have at least twelve sauropod remains before us. Others may be buried under this layer of bone or near it. The bones are not articulated, hardly even associated, but they are so unusually well preserved that the task of reconstructing them will be quite easy. For one thing, they are entirely free from the iron and crystal deposits which frequently make the matter of cleaning and restoring fossil bones a herculean and almost impossible task.

"While I have nothing definite to base this statement on, I somehow feel that we have only scratched the surface yet and that we have stumbled upon

one of the greatest fossil mines in the paleontological history of America.

"We have at least 50,000 pounds of fossil bones in sight and one of the things that worries us is to preserve them from the elements long enough to get them out of the ground and carted to Greybull which includes a ten-mile journey over narrow and rough mountain trails."

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How Dinosaurs Died 125,000,000 Years Ago

By **Dr. BARNUM BROWN**, Curator of Fossil Reptiles of the American Museum of Natural History and Leader of the American Museum-Sinclair Dinosaur Expedition.

OUR discovery will unearth data that will throw light upon hitherto unexplored recesses of the prehistoric past.

One interesting feature is that the

position of the bones, as well as the clay and sandstone which cover and surround them, gives a graphic account of how these huge creatures met death. The account of the tragedy that wiped them out appears as plainly as a printed obituary because it has been preserved in the sands on which it was staged in those long-gone days when the northwest was flat, swampy and almost at sea level.

But before we reconstruct the tragedy that took place in prehistoric Wyoming 125,000,000 years ago, we must first of all set the stage upon which the drama was enacted.

We see a flat land, rich in vegetation and dotted by countless shallow lakes, swamps and rivers. The climate is tropical. Pines, cycads, figs and bananas cover the uplands. Thick grass grows along the banks and rank vegetation thrives in the water.

We know those stage properties were there for remnants of them have been found in various sections of the Big Horn Range. Further evidence has been discovered in the Red Gulch Quarry where, in the earth immediately over the bones, we have discovered carbonized fragments of the rushes, grass and other plants on which the sauropods—amphibious and herbivorous dinosaurs—fed in their day.

Now the actors come upon the stage. Huge slab-sided creatures that weigh from 15 to 20 tons apiece and measure nearly 50 feet. They have whip-like



RICHEST FOSSIL MINE

This paleontological treasure heap of bones which belonged to monsters that roamed the land in Wyoming millions of years ago was unearthed by Dr. Barnum Brown, of the American Museum of Natural History. Remains of eight huge sauropod dinosaurs believed to belong to a hitherto unknown species were found.