

nel has already left for the petroleum district of the lower Peace and Athabasca region, to the future importance of which so much attention has lately been drawn. Mr. T. C. Weston will continue to collect in the Cretaceous and Tertiary beds along the Red Deer River, N. W. T.

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THE SASKATCHEWAN INSTITUTE.

We learn with pleasure that a new Literary, Historical and Scientific Society has been started at Prince Albert, N.W.T., under the above caption, "for the purpose of pursuing such literary studies as may be deemed interesting and instructive; of prosecuting original researches, within the District of Saskatchewan, of a historical and scientific nature; of collecting and preserving the early history, mythology, and folklore of the local Indian tribes; and of cultivating and encouraging the study of the Natural History and resources of the country." As stated in their circular, the Natural History and resources of that section of the Territories are practically untouched, and offer a large field of work for the Institute. We wish the Institute every success, and trust that it may grow rapidly, and succeed in the important work it has undertaken.

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SHORT INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTORS AWAY FROM HOME.

Frequently inquiries are received from members who are about to take a journey, as to the best way to collect specimens of insects and plants. The following short instructions have therefore been drawn up at the request of the Council:—

INSECTS—*Moths, Butterflies and Dragon-flies* may be killed in the ordinary "cyanide bottle" and then placed in three-cornered envelopes made by taking small squares of paper and folding them across, almost in the middle, so as to make a triangular form with one flap a little smaller than the other, when the insect is placed between the two flaps, the two edges of the larger one are folded over the lesser, and the specimen is then ready to have the date and locality written on it and to be packed away, where it will not be disturbed. After a day or two the

specimens become very brittle and easily broken. They should therefore be stored in small firm boxes. Cigar boxes are very convenient.

Grasshoppers and other *Orthoptera* may be killed in the cyanide bottle and each one rolled up lightly in soft paper and then stored away in the same manner.

Beetles and *Bugs*—All *Coleoptera* and *Hemiptera* may be either placed at once in alcohol or in bottles containing sawdust dampened with alcohol.

Bees, *Ants* and *Wasps* may be collected for examination in alcohol but when possible they should be killed in the cyanide bottle and pinned in a cork-lined box.

Flies must be killed and pinned at once.

Spiders may be collected in alcohol.

Cyanide Bottle—This may be made either by placing a small quantity of Cyanide of Potassium in the bottom of a bottle and pouring in sufficient wet Plaster-of-Paris to cover it; or a hole can be hollowed out in the cork and a piece of cyanide inserted. This can be kept in place either with a plug of cotton wool, or a piece of chamois leather or linen may be tied over the cork. For beetles a few very small pieces of cyanide dropped into a bottle half filled with dry sawdust will answer.

It must be remembered that the active principle of Cyanide of Potassium being Prussic Acid it is intensely poisonous—any left on hand after the bottles are made should be at once destroyed.

Plants—Botanical specimens are made by pressing plants between sheets of dry paper and changing the papers every 12 or 24 hours until the specimens are dry. When staying for any length of time at one place a convenient press may be made as follows: Put down a few sheets of paper and on the top of these arrange a specimen, then a few more sheets of paper and another plant, and so on until all are arranged. Upon the top of the pile so formed put a box in which stones or sand to about the weight of twenty pounds may be placed. When travelling two boards held together with straps will answer all purposes. The quicker plants are dried the better the specimens will be. The papers for drying plants should never be left unchanged for more than 24 hours.

J. FLETCHER.



Fletcher, James. 1889. "Short Instructions for Collectors Away from Home." *The Ottawa naturalist* 3(1), 8–9.

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