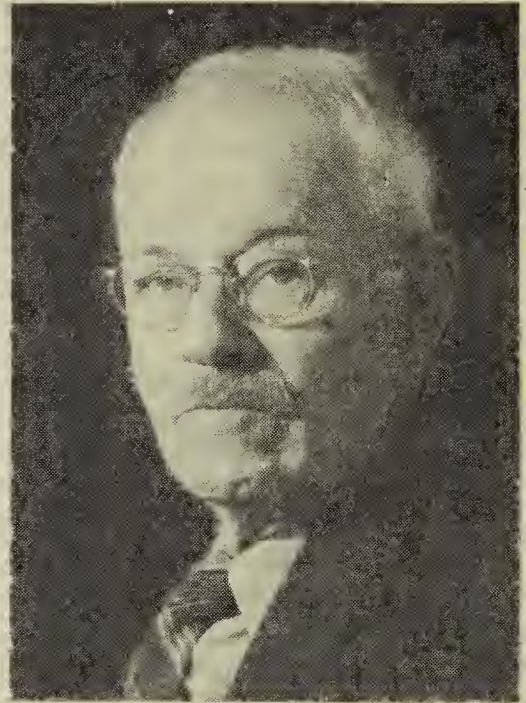
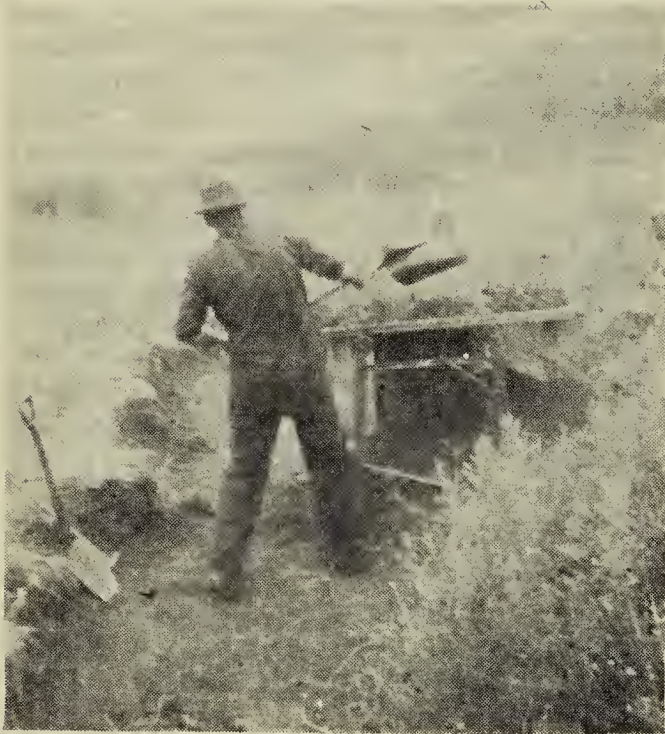


# Spade and Screen

By FRED S. ROBINSON



W. H. RAND

Pioneer Canadian Archaeologist

The late W. H. (Harry) Rand who was curator of the Manitoba Museum 1935 to 1946 began collecting Stone Age relics in England when he was a young man. He quickly interested the British Museum in his finds and had the opportunity of seeing some of that institutions' top scientists do excavating work on some of the earliest stone age sites in the south of England. When he left England for Canada, his collection of early flints was donated to the Museum in Colchester. Harry Rand settled at Carberry, Manitoba and soon began using his spare time to study early North American Stone Age. At this time no work or scientific investigation had been done on Western Canadian Indian Relics for this was 1915. The Carberry plains were rich in prehistoric material, but during his twenty years there he was not able to arouse any interest in his finds nor have a single visitor from an established museum come to Carberry to look over his discoveries. He had the field to himself, you might say, and it was fitting indeed that when the Manitoba Museum was organized in the early '30's the Carberry Collection of W. H. Rand became the foundation of the Museum's Archaeology exhibit and

Harry himself, the Museum Curator. This was the opportunity Harry had needed. He put his early scientific training to work and with the enthusiasm of a true collector he began to untangle some archaeological puzzles of Western Canada. The stone Mosaics of the White Shell Forest in eastern Manitoba were studied, photographed and attempts made to date them. Mound-builder sites of south western Manitoba were excavated and dated. A collection of Saskatchewan Midden material, written about by W. J. Orchard was placed in the Manitoba Museum. Mr. Rand rated these "Midden" finds as the most important in the west. He said that these finds would be the "Key" to accurate dating of plains Indian Occupations. How correct he was. The Mortlach Midden site was discovered in 1949 and in 1954 was scientifically excavated by Boyd Wettlaufer and all its' strata dated with the modern Carbon 14 Method. But Harry did not live to hear his forecast realized. He died in May 1947, at age seventy-six at Manson's Landing, British Columbia. All his life he had been a great student of nature, but his first love was Archaeology. He was a real pioneer in Canadian Archaeology.