

summer of 1944 was with the Porsild Biological expeditions in the Yukon, beyond the Arctic circle, tells me that there are many species of bees even in that far northern district.

If you are interested in learning more about the life and habits of bees you should read Maeterlinck's "Life of the Bee" and "The Golden Throng" by Edwin Way Teale. Both are classic among the many volumes which have been written about these interesting creatures.

GENERAL NOTES

Mrs. F. Bilsbury, of Grenfell, in a letter dated June 26, reports: "There is not one common gopher (Richardson's ground squirrel), or grey bush gopher (Franklin's ground squirrel), or striped gopher to be seen. I have only seen one chipmunk this summer. A year ago pocket gophers were thick; now there is not one. We believe that through the heavy snow and increase in water, many of these animals either were drowned out or fled.

There has been a great increase in the number of frogs in the Grenfell district this summer, but no toads have been seen."

.....

A Devils lake Tiger Salamander was found in a Yorkton garden, August 9, 1947, by two of our junior members, Nathaniel Olson and Edward Burski.

.....

A fossilized shellfish was unearthed by Yorkton city workmen, August 18, 1947, while digging a trench on Fourth Avenue. The fossil was in an excellent state of preservation, having been encased in an ironstone concretion. The fossil is known as a baculite, one of the straight shelled cephalopods, which are represented in existing faunas by two groups, one including such animals as squids and cuttlefishes, and the octopus, the other comprising the solitary genus Nautilus. The fossil is five inches in length and one inch in diameter. It has been given by the finder, Mr. Alfred Guppy, to the city for the future Yorkton museum.

.....

It is with much regret that we report the death of Mr. John A. Gunn of Good Spirit Lake, who died at Fort Qu'Appelle Sanatorium on August 12. Born near Fort Qu'Appelle in August, 1883, he settled with his parents at Good Spirit Lake (known locally as Devil's Lake) in 1888. A veteran of both the Boer and First World Wars, he was a storekeeper and postmaster at Spirit Lake P.O. Mr. Gunn was a member of the Yorkton Natural History Society from its inception. He was a keen observer of nature and furnished the "Blue Jay" with many reports on the wildlife of his district. His passing will be deeply felt by all who knew him.

.....

Members will note that this issue of the "Blue Jay" combines both the April-May-June and the July-August-September issues. (Volume 5, Nos. 3 & 4). We sincerely regret having to follow such a policy, but we saw no other way of bringing Volume 5 to a close before the commencement of our next fiscal year. We have been one issue behind ever since Mrs. Friestly's unexpected death over one year ago, and we have finally had to give up the hopes we once entertained of catching up to date. This past year has not been an easy one for the Editors of the "Blue Jay"; however, difficulties have been overcome one by one, and we are now set for a fresh start this coming year. We trust that the fact that this issue is slightly larger than usual will help to compensate for the issue missed.

.....

We ask that members let us have reports on their recent observations, so that we may get Volume 6 of the "Blue Jay" off to a good start.