

Much of this work was carried on in the face of considerable difficulties, chief among which were the rough and undeveloped character of some of the regions in which investigations were undertaken; the frequent lack of transportation facilities, and poor roads, and the quite general absence of information of a helpful nature among settlers.

The frequent rains, and at times great abundance of mosquitos, and other insect pests, rendered the work very trying.

One important result of the Survey was the intelligent popular interest which its employees succeeded in arousing in systematic archaeological research work in counties where there has been none, or almost none before. The city and country newspapers devoted many columns to the historical importance and educational value of the investigations, and to the subject of the preservation of the aboriginal remains of especially the northern half of the state.

The antiquities of central and northern Wisconsin have been long at the complete mercy of relic hunters, summer resorters, campers and of other persons ignorant of their educational and scientific value. The amount of valuable historical data which has been irrecoverably lost through the destructive despoliations of Indian earthworks by these is too great to be even estimated. Many other remains of great value have also been wholly or partly destroyed in other ways. Among the causes for this destruction of the state's aboriginal treasures there may be mentioned the cultivation of lands along the shores of the streams and lakes, the erection of buildings, and the construction of roads and railroad grades.

The following examples of the wholesale destruction and mutilation of early Indian memorials may be cited. At Dunnville, on a bluff-top overlooking the Red Cedar river, was once located a fine group of about fifty mortuary mounds. Nearly every one of these once imposing monuments have been despoiled of their contents by relic hunters, by the very unintelligent and unsatisfactory method of digging great holes from their tops downward into the interior. No attempt had