

OBITUARY

THEODORE HENRY FRISON, 1895-1945

Many hearts were saddened when news reached us of the death of Theodore Henry Frison at the age of 50 years; he died during the evening of December 9, 1945, after an illness of over a year. Ted, as he was affectionately known by his many friends and admirers, was born in Champaign, Illinois, on January 17, 1895. Not many young men had his good fortune when he decided to become an entomologist. Living near him was his friend the late Prof. J. W. Folsom, who taught entomology at the University of Illinois. Encouraged by Folsom, who recognized his early ability, he took his training at the University, receiving the M.Sc. degree in 1920, and the Ph.D. degree in 1923.

His university studies were interrupted in April, 1918, when he entered the U. S. army, becoming a second lieutenant in the infantry the following August. In December he resumed studies at the University. Following graduation in 1920, he was appointed Assistant State Entomologist of Wisconsin, which position he held for about one year. He was then appointed to a position in the U. S. Bureau of Entomology, his headquarters being Moorestown, N. J. During these early years his progress had attracted the attention of Prof. Stephen Forbes, then Head of the Department of Entomology, University of Illinois, State Entomologist and Chief of the State Laboratory of Natural History. This led to his appointment, in 1923, as systematic entomologist on the Natural History Survey staff. Seven years prior to this latter year, the State Laboratory of Natural History and the office of State Entomologist were merged, the two forming the State Natural History Survey, with Forbes as Chief. Upon the latter's death in 1930, Frison acted as Head of the Survey until July 1, 1931, when he was appointed Chief, which position he held until his death.

The writer knew Ted quite intimately over a period approaching twenty years. He was extremely likeable, had a very hearty laugh and was ever ready for some fun or adventure. During the many years I attended the annual meetings of the American Association of Economic Entomologists and the Entomological Society of America, we always got together for a session or two. At other times when he visited Ottawa or other places in Canada we usually saw a good deal of each other. Memories of happy hours together will remain with me always.

Under Dr. Frison's direction much research concerned with the conservation of the birds, mammals and fishes of Illinois was incepted as a result of which notable progress was made. At the first Midwest Wildlife Conference held in 1935, he emphasized the necessity of further wildlife research in the State. This he was able to develop with the aid of an increased staff of young technicians. In this connection mention may be made of the field laboratories established at Havana and Charleston where special investigations have been undertaken.

With the completion of the new Natural Resources Building in November, 1940, at Dr. Frison's request, the writer was authorized to represent the Dominion Department of Agriculture at the dedication ceremonies. At this time too, the sixth annual Midwest Wildlife Conference was in progress at Urbana. During the period Dr. Frison was the recipient of many congratulatory expressions from those present. He was, indeed, a very happy man now that he had well equipped laboratories, staff, etc., for the carrying on of the work he directed and to the future of which he looked with so much delight. In his death, the State has lost a most valuable servant and natural science a devoted worker.

Of Dr. Frison's entomological work much could be written. He was known internationally as a result of his studies of bumblebees, stoneflies, aphids, and other groups. Many contributions were published, a list of which will doubtless appear elsewhere. Among his recent publications, "The Stoneflies, or Plecoptera,

of Illinois" (1937), and "Studies of North American Plecoptera" (1942,) are important.

With his broad knowledge of the natural sciences and conservation, his leadership was acknowledged by the following organizations upon the executives of which he served at one time or another: Illinois State Academy of Science, Ecological Society of America, Illinois Audubon Society, Illinois State Archaeological Society, American Association of Economic Entomologists, Central States Forest Experimental Station, and Entomological Society of America. From 1936 through 1939, he was Editor of the *Journal of Economic Entomology*. Other organizations of which he was a member are the following: American Association for the Advancement of Science, Society of Wildlife Specialists, Limnological Society of America, American Wildlife Institute, American Society of Naturalists, Wilderness Society, Illinois State Florists' Association, Conservation Council of Illinois, Illinois Horticultural Society, Illinois State Nurserymen's Association, Izaak Walton League, and Illinois Federation of Sportsmen's Club.

Ted Frison was very fond of outdoor sports — tennis, golf, fishing, and hunting. Everything he did he seemingly enjoyed. During the World Congress of Entomology held at Cornell University in 1928, K. M. King and the writer were challenged to a tennis match by Frison and the late W. P. Flint. Word got around that this was an international match between Canada and the United States, and much to our surprise the results of the match were announced at the evening banquet. Ted and his partner were too good for us.

Referring to other interests, the following has come to me from J. S. Ayars, Editor, Section of Publications, Natural History Survey Division:

"Dr. Frison's interest in Science did not prevent an appreciation of music, painting, American history, and world affairs. The love of music was held over from the years in which he played the violin and perhaps was inherited from his father, well known to early Champaign music lovers as a musician and teacher. World affairs he considered from the viewpoint of the biologist. Most of the Art Museums of the United States he visited in free time while on business trips. Spots famous in American history ranked with him in interest second only to the clear streams where stoneflies could be collected."

To his widow, son and daughter we extend our sincere sympathy.

ARTHUR GIBSON.

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