

*THE SURVEY OF THE FOREST RESERVES.*

PROFESSOR CHAS. D. WALCOTT, Director of the United States Geological Survey, has just returned to Washington after an absence of three months and a-half spent in the field.

In the course of his journeys Mr. Walcott gave a short time to geologic investigation in the Sierras, on his own account, and to attending to the general affairs of the bureau. He was engaged principally, however, in looking after the surveys and investigations of the suspended forest reserves, a work only just entered upon by his bureau, and to start which Congress at the last session made an appropriation of \$150,000. This work was started and got under way in July. In connection with this branch of work topographic and subdivision surveys are being made in nine of the forest reserves of the West, the field being divided between two of the topographic divisions or sections of the Survey. Mr. R. U. Goode, of the Pacific Section, is making surveys in the Bitterroot, the Priest River and the Washington reserves, while Mr. Douglas, of the Rocky Mountain Section, is surveying the Lewis and Clarke and the Flathead reserves of Montana, the Big Horn and Téton Reserves of Wyoming and the Uinta Reserve of Utah. Before the season closes Mr. Goode will also work in the San Jacinto Reserve of southern California, sending some of his parties into that area when they are driven by bad weather out of the more northern reserves.

Data on which to base definite statements of the results of the surveying work of the season are not yet available. Preceding the topographic work proper triangular and spirit-level lines are being run, except in the higher and more rugged regions, where there are no roads and trails. The subdivision surveys are being made in the same manner as the subdivision surveys in Indian Territory. Another feature is the

outlining by the surveyors, in the course of their other work, of all wooded and forested areas, and another is the erection, at suitable intervals, of permanent bench marks, to mark the elevation above sea level. There are from one to three parties in each reserve. It is yet too early for definite statements of the results of the season's work, but such data as are at hand indicate that the surveys have progressed satisfactorily, considering the lateness of the start, the rugged character of much of the country traversed, etc. In the Washington and Flathead Reserves work was discontinued at the close of September on account of snow and otherwise unfavorable weather, but at last reports it was still going on in all other localities.

The topographic maps which will result from the topographic surveys will be on the scale of two miles to the inch with 100 foot contour intervals. These will serve as base maps for the representation of forestry details, agricultural and mineral lands, etc. The subdivision surveys will enable the demarkation of tracts of land for agriculture, for minerals and for timber.

The general economic investigation of the reserves is under the charge of Mr. Henry Gannett, who is assisted by seven forestry experts. The reserves, and the experts assigned to each, are the Black Hills Reserve, H. S. Graves; the Big Horn Reserve, F. E. Town; the Priest River Reserve and the eastern part of Bitterroot Reserve, John B. Leiberger; the eastern portion of Washington Reserve, W. Y. Steele and M. W. Gorman; the western portion of the Washington Reserve, H. B. Ayers, and the Téton Reserve, Dr. T. S. Brandegee. Work was begun in these several reserves at various dates between July 1st and August 15th. It has since progressed satisfactorily in all the reserves, according to Mr. Gannett, who has just returned to Washington and made his first report of the season. The first area to be completed, Mr. Gannett says, is the

Priest River Reserve, which was finished about the end of July; the second the Téton, finished about the middle of September. The Big Horn Reserve is practically completed at this date. Work in the other areas is still in progress, or was when Mr. Gannett reported.

The information obtained by Mr. Gannett's division touching these reserves relates to the condition, value and character of the timber; the density of undergrowth; the prevalence of fires in past times; the extent of cutting; the location and extent of lands more valuable for other purposes than for timber; the amount of settlement within the reserves, and the demand for timbers in their neighborhood. It is expected that the results obtained will be of value to the government in delimiting the boundaries of the reserves and in their future administration.

W. F. MORSELL.

WASHINGTON, October 20, 1897.

#### CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

##### MAYA DAY SYMBOLS.

IN the 'Sixteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology,' Professor Cyrus Thomas has an elaborate article of sixty pages on the day symbols of the Maya year. In this study he follows the list of days as given by most authorities, beginning with *imix*. After quoting the names assigned them in five of the seven languages where this calendar was in use, he comments upon the meaning and relationship of the various terms. He departs in frequent instances from the opinions of earlier writers, but in the main agrees that in a general way there exists a connection between the terms used to designate any one day.

He has taken pains to point out in several passages some similarities in the meaning of the day-names to superstitions found among the Polynesian islanders. These

are somewhat striking, but scarcely so much so as the similarities long ago pointed out between the Mexican and certain Eastern Asiatic calendars by Alexander von Humboldt. They are such as may be found the world over when we compare early attempts to measure time for religious or divinatory purposes.

The paper is abundantly illustrated, and will prove a useful work of reference to the student of Mayan hieroglyphs.

#### THE VIKING CLUB.

THE voyages of the Northmen to America excite an interest in their ancient memorials among American scholars. All such will welcome the periodical issued by the Viking Club under the name of *The Saga-book*. Its aim is to concentrate the study of Norse mythology, history and literature. Especial attention is given to ancient inscriptions on stone or other material exhibiting the runic and symbolic figures of the early script. The extension of the Norsemen through Scotland and Ireland was accompanied by a large amalgamation of Celtic elements. It has been shown that this reached by transmission to Iceland, where we find a considerable number of ancient Celtic names.

The *Saga-book* is handsomely printed and illustrated and may be bought of the publisher, David Nutt, London. The club itself is founded as a social and literary society for all interested in the North and its literature and antiquities. Meetings are held in London from November to June. It aims to found a library, to present and discuss papers on Northern antiquities, to encourage the publication of documents, arrange for exhibitions, etc. The subscription is ten shillings yearly, which entitles to a copy of the 'Proceedings.' Applications may be sent, care of the publisher, 270 Strand.

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