and so confuses, distinct peoples. Various descriptive or connotive terms are also in use, such as 'North American savages,' 'Red Men,' etc.; but these designations are often misleading, and never adapted to convenient employment in a denotive way.

2. In most cases the classifications on which current nomenclature are based, and many terms depending on them for definition, are obsolete; and the retention of the unsuitable nomenclature of the past tends to perpetuate misleading classifications.

3. While the name 'Indian' is firmly fixed in American literature and speech, and must long retain its current meaning (at least as a synonym), the need of scientific students for a definite designation is such that any suitable term acceptable to ethnologists may be expected to come into use with considerable rapidity. In this, as in other respects, the body of working specialists forms the court of last appeal; and it cannot be doubted that their decision will eventually be adopted by thinkers along other lines.

4. As the most active students of the native American tribes, it would seem to be incumbent on American ethnologists to propose a general designation for these tribes.

5. In view of these and other considerations, the name *Amerind* is commended to the consideration of American and foreign students of tribes and peoples. The term is an arbitrary compound of the leading syllables of the frequently-used phrase 'American Indian'; it thus carries a connotive or associative element which will serve explicative and mnemonic function in early use, yet must tend to disappear as the name becomes denotive through habitual use.

6. The proposed term carries no implication of classific relation, raises no mooted question concerning the origin or distribution of races, and perpetuates no obsolete idea; so far as the facts and theories of ethnology are concerned, it is purely denotive.

7. The proposed term is sufficiently brief and euphonious for all practical purposes, not only in the English but in the prevailing languages of continental Europe; and it may readily be pluralized in these languages, in accordance with their respective rules, without losing its distinctive sematic character. Moreover, it lends itself readily to adjectival termination in two forms (a desideratum in widely-used ethnologic terms, as experience has shown), viz.: *Amerindian* and *Amerindic*, and is susceptible, also, of adverbial termination, while it can readily be used in the requisite actional form, *Amerindize*, or in relational forms, such as *post Amerindian*, etc.; the affixes being, of course, modifiable according to the rules of the different languages in which the term may be used.

8. The term is proposed as a designation for all of the aboriginal tribes of the American continent and adjacent islands, including the Eskimo.

The working ethnologists in the Society were practically unanimous in approving the term for tentative adoption, and for commendation to fellow students in this and other countries.

EXPLORING EXPEDITION TO THE MID-PACIFIC OCEAN.

The unusual activity now being exhibited by various European governments in scientific exploration of the seas is soon to be supplemented by the United States, for arrangements are being perfected by the United States Commission of Fish and Fisheries for one of the most important marine scientific expeditions ever undertaken in this country. The association of the name of Professor Alexander Agassiz with the expedition is a guarantee of its high scientific standing, and the employ-

ment of the Fish Commission steamer *Albatross* ensures the proper paraphernalia for marine research.

The objective points of the expedition are certain groups of islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, of both sides of the equator, about whose local fauna little is known, and in the waters contiguous to which little or no scientific investigation has been conducted.

The *Albatross* will sail from San Francisco about the middle of August, and proceed directly to Tahiti, in the Society Islands, possibly touching at the Marquesas Islands for coal. On this trip of 3,500 miles, dredging and sounding will be carried on at regular intervals on an almost wholly unexplored section of the sea bottom.

Tahiti will be made the headquarters while the Paumotu Islands are being explored. In this archipelago, which is about 600 miles long, the *Albatross* will pass six or eight weeks, and important scientific discoveries should be made, as the natural history of the region is practically unknown.

After returning to the Society Islands the vessel will go to the Tonga, or Friendly Islands, a distance of about 1,500 miles, where a week or ten days will be spent. Thence the vessel will sail for the Fiji Islands, where a short stay will be made, and thence 1,700 miles to the Marshall Islands, visiting a number of the Ellice Islands and Gilbert Islands on the way. Six or seven weeks will be devoted to the exploration of the Marshall Islands, about whose fauna almost nothing is known.

Between the Marshall Islands and the Hawaiian Islands, and between the latter and San Francisco, a distance of over 4,000 miles, a line of deep-sea dredgings will be run, deep-sea tow-nets being used while the dredging is going on. This work is expected to be one of the most interesting features of the expedition.

The *Albatross* is expected to return to the United States about April 10, 1900, after a voyage of 20,000 miles.

Every effort is being made to thoroughly equip the vessel for deep-sea dredging, trawling and sounding; surface and intermediate towing; shore seining; fishing trials with lines and nets; land collecting, and other branches of the work. The newest apparatus for deep-sea and plankton investigations will be supplied. Special appliances are being constructed for use in the very deep water to be found about some of the islands, and it is expected that the dredge will be hauled at a greater depth than has heretofore been attempted. The *Albatross*, since her return to the Fish Commission by the Navy Department, on the conclusion of the Spanish-American War, has been undergoing extensive repairs and improvements, including the installation of new boilers, the building of an ice-making machine and cold-storage plant, electric fans, etc., and will, on this expedition, more than ever deserve the reputation of being the best equipped vessel in existence for scientific research.

The personnel of the expedition will be as follows: Professor Alexander Agassiz, in charge of the scientific work, accompanied by his son; Lieutenant Commander Jefferson F. Moser, United States Navy, commanding officer of the *Albatross*, in charge of topographical surveys; Dr. H. F. Moore, chief naturalist of the *Albatross;* Mr. Charles H. Townsend, late naturalist of the *Albatross;* Dr. W. McM. Woodworth and Dr. A. G. Mayer, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.; Mr. A. B. Alexander, United States Fish Commission, fishery expert; Mr. H. C. Fassett, United States Fish Commission, photographer. The vessel is manned by ten officers and seventy petty officers and enlisted men of the United States Navy.

The Department of State evinces a lively interest in the expedition, and has through

our ambassadors communicated with the British, French and German authorities for the purpose of having the representatives of those governments instructed to accord special privileges to the *Albatross*. The President has cordially approved the assignment of the vessel to this work.

In a recent letter Professor Agassiz refers to his explorations in the Bahamas, the Bermudas, Cuba, Florida, the Fiji Islands, the Australian Great Barrier Reef, the Sandwich Islands, the Bay of Panama, the Galapagos Archipelago and the Gulf of California, and then says:

> The expedition now proposed I consider the most important one I have undertaken since the cruise of the 'Blake' in 1877–80. It covers an area of the Pacific which has not as yet been touched, as nothing is known of the line San Francisco to Tahiti, Tahiti to Fiji, Ellice and Jaluit, and Marshall Islands to Honolulu; and most important results should be obtained with a vessel so admirably fitted for the work as the Albatross. In addition to the deep-sea work, we expect to visit many of the atolls and elevated reefs abounding along our track, and hope to throw additional light on the debatable theory of coral reefs. The proposed Albatross expedition is one which, with fair success, is sure to be creditable to this country. Since the great exploring expedition of Wilkes this government has done but little in the greater field of oceanic exploration as a whole, though the minor expeditions undertaken in connection with the work of the Coast Survey and the Fish Commission have been among the most satisfactory explorations of limited areas of our coast.

It is the intention to have the Fish Commission and the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy jointly publish the reports embodying the results of the expedition.

HUGH M. SMITH.

U. S. COMMISSION OF FISH AND FISHERIES.

THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF IRRIGATION.

THE appropriation for the irrigation investigations in charge of the Office of Experiment Stations, Department of Agriculture, having been increased at the recent session of Congress from $10,000 to $35,000, of which sum $10,000 was made immediately available, these investigations are being further developed and the work in connection with them is being more thoroughly organized. The scope of the investigations has been more accurately defined in the last appropriation act. As there stated, funds are provided "To enable the Secretary of Agriculture to investigate and report upon the laws and institutions relating to irrigation, and upon the use of irrigation waters, with special suggestions of better methods for the utilization of irrigation waters in agriculture than those in common use, and for the preparation, printing and illustration of reports and bulletins on irrigation; and the agricultural experiment stations are hereby authorized and directed to cooperate with the Secretary of Agriculture in carrying out said investigations in such manner and to such extent as may be warranted by a due regard to the varying conditions and needs of the respective States and Territories, and as may be mutually agreed upon."

The first bulletin prepared in connection with these investigations, which has recently been issued, contains a discussion of the irrigation laws which control the diversion and use of water from the Missouri River and its tributaries, by Professor Elwood Mead, including papers on the water laws of Colorado and Nebraska, by the engineers of these States. Other bulletins of a similar character are in preparation.

For the present the investigations on the use of irrigation water will be largely confined to the determination of the actual amount of water used by successful farmers in different parts of the irrigated region on different soils and in the growing of different crops.

A temporary organization for the administration of these investigations has been effected by the appointment of Professor Elwood Mead as irrigation expert in charge,