

There are two possible dates of sailing from New York; June 20 and July 4. The laboratory will be opened for those who sail on June 20 and will remain open eight weeks, thus providing for those who can not sail until July 4.

The well-known richness of the sub-tropical fauna and flora, the healthfulness and equable temperature of the islands, and the ease with which they may be reached combine to make the Bermudas a most attractive field for biological research.

Venerable George Tucker, archdeacon, president, Bermuda Natural History Society.

Hon. W. Maxwell Green, Consul U. S. A., vice-president, Bermuda Natural History Society.

F. Goodwin Gosling, honorary secretary, Bermuda Natural History Society.

E. L. Mark, director Zoological Laboratory, Harvard University.

C. L. Bristol, professor of biology, New York University.

Circulars and detailed information will be supplied on application either to Professor C. L. Bristol, University Heights, New York City, or to Professor E. L. Mark, 109 Irving St., Cambridge, Mass.

PROGRESS TOWARD AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY.

DURING the Second International Conference held in Mexico in the winter of 1901-1902, a proposal that the creation of an International Archeologic Commission be recommended to the participating countries received much attention; and on January 29, 1902, a formal recommendation to that effect was adopted. It is printed *in extenso*, in Spanish, English and French, on pages 141-147, in the report of 'Recomendaciones, Resoluciones, Convenciones y Tratados,' published officially soon after the adjournment of the conference.

Action was taken on the recommendation within a few months by the Republic of Mexico, President Diaz appointing Señor Don Alfredo Chavero (a distinguished archeologist, soon afterwards made director of the Museo Nacional) to inquire into the feasibility of establishing such a commission, and to confer with representatives of other countries. Dr. Chavero visited the United States in the

autumn of 1902, and conferred with the diplomatic representatives of the various American countries in Washington, as well as with the archeologists and ethnologists in attendance at the International Congress of Americanists held in New York in October. On returning to Mexico he reported progress, pursuant to which President Diaz delegated His Excellency, Señor Don Manuel de Aspiroz, the Ambassador from Mexico to the United States, as a representative of the commission empowered to treat with similar delegates from other countries.

The recommendation of the International Conference came to the notice of several scientific societies in this country; and on July 1, 1902, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Anthropological Association adopted resolutions approving the contemplated action.

In November, 1902, the Secretary of State designated Dr. W. J. McGee, ethnologist in charge, Bureau of American Ethnology, as a representative on the part of the United States to confer with similar representatives on the part of other countries in arranging for the organization of the commission; being in the City of Mexico soon afterwards, he conferred with President Diaz, Dr. Chavero and others, and after his return continued the conferences with the Mexican Ambassador as well as with Honorable W. W. Rockhill, director of the Bureau of American Republics. In these conferences a plan for the organization of the commission was framed.

On April 15, 1903, a meeting of representatives of several American countries, convoked by the Secretary of State at the instance of the Ambassador for Mexico, was held in the State Department. The draft of plan for organization of the commission was submitted by His Excellency, Señor de Aspiroz, and some of its features were explained by Dr. McGee. After full discussion the plan was approved without dissenting voice; the representatives of four countries signified the intention of adopting it on behalf of their governments, while other ministers explained the necessity of withholding final action pending instructions from their respective governments, and it was

unanimously voted to recommend the adoption of the plan and the making of a moderate appropriation for carrying out its purposes to the several American countries. It was also decided by a unanimous vote to assemble in session for final organization on the third Monday in December, 1903, and meantime to invite the several American governments to designate commissioners to attend this session and participate in the organization.

Under the plan adopted the commission is designed to form an administrative corps and include a scientific corps, the former to be made up of commissioners officially designated by the participating governments, to a number not exceeding three from each, and to have a president, two vice-presidents, and a secretary, to be elected for terms of four years; the commissionerships and these administrative offices to be honorary. The scientific corps is designed to include trained scientists and scientific attachés, to be chosen by the commission, with a director-general and a secretary, and a director for each participating country; these positions to be either honorary or salaried, and commissioners being eligible. The specified objects of the commission are (1) to promote the unification of laws relating to antiquities in the Western Hemisphere; (2) to increase and diffuse knowledge concerning these antiquities and the aboriginal peoples by whom they were produced; (3) to awaken interest in the vestiges of a vanishing race; (4) to unify museum methods throughout the American countries; and (5) to work for the establishment of one or more archeologic and ethnologic museums of international character. Provision is made for the acquisition, preservation and transfer of museum and office property, for the exchange of collections and scientific workers among the several countries, for annual and special sessions of the commission and the scientific corps, and for the preparation and publication of reports. The recommendations of the International Conference extended to the custody and preservation of aboriginal structures, and it is planned to take up this duty as the work of the commission proceeds.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

At the stated session of the National Academy of Sciences on April 21, 22 and 23, new members were elected as follows: T. C. Chamberlin, professor of geology, University of Chicago; William James, professor of philosophy, Harvard University; E. L. Mark, professor of anatomy, Harvard University; Arthur G. Webster, professor of physics, Clark University; Horace L. Wells, professor of analytical chemistry and metallurgy, Yale University. President Ira Remsen, of the Johns Hopkins University, was elected vice-president, and Professor Simon Newcomb, foreign secretary. Professor George E. Hale, director of the Yerkes Observatory, was awarded the Draper medal and made a member of the council. Foreign associates were elected as follows: W. C. Brogger, professor of mineralogy and geology, University of Christiana; Robert Koch, professor of hygiene, University of Berlin; E. Ray Lankester, director of the British Museum of Natural History; D. J. Mendeleef, professor of chemistry, St. Petersburg; Wilhelm Pfeffer, professor of botany, University of Leipzig; M. Picard, professor of mathematics, University of Paris; J. J. Thomson, Cavendish professor of physics, Cambridge University; H. K. Vogel, director of the astrophysical observatory near Potsdam; and Ferdinand Zirkel, professor of mineralogy, University of Leipzig.

PROFESSOR SIMON NEWCOMB, of Washington, has been appointed a delegate from the National Academy of Sciences to the International Association of Academies, which meets in London this coming June. Mr. S. F. Emmons and Mr. Geo. F. Becker, of Washington, and Professor C. R. Van Hise, of Madison, Wis., have been appointed delegates to the International Geological Congress, which meets in Vienna in August of this year.

At the request of the Secretary of State, the president of the National Academy of Sciences has appointed a committee to consider what means, if any, should be taken to preserve the original copy of the Declaration of Independence. The signatures of the signers