

*THE TRANSCONTINENTAL EXCURSION OF  
THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL  
SOCIETY*

THE American Geographical Society of New York celebrates this year the occupation of its new building on Broadway at 156th Street and the sixtieth anniversary of its founding. No form of celebration seemed so fitting as an excursion across the United States, in which an invited party of European geographers should make the journey in company with a number of American geographers, who would show the visitors the most significant of our geographical features; the excursion to be closed by a meeting in New York, when the visitors should be invited to give some account of what they have seen.

The plan thus outlined is now approaching its realization. The leading geographical societies of over a dozen European countries have been requested to select from among their members a number of proficient geographers whom the American Geographical Society may welcome on the excursion. The list thus constituted, with the addition of a few names otherwise invited, now includes over forty geographers from sixteen different countries; most of the delegates being professors in universities or officers of national geographic societies. The character of the party will be sufficiently indicated by announcing the coming of Partsch and Drygalski, Merzbacher and Jaeger, of Germany; Gallois, Margerie and Vacher, of France; Chisholm, Becket and Falconer, of Great Britain; Niermeyer and Oestreich, of Holland; Leconte, of Belgium; Beltrán, of Spain; Silva-Telles, of Portugal; Brückner and Oberhummer, of Austria; Cholnoky and Teleki, of Hungary; Cvijič, of Serbia; Doubiansky and Schokalsky, of Russia; Andersson, of Sweden; Olufsen, of Denmark; Brunhes, Chaix and Nussbaum, of Switzerland, and Calciati, Marinelli and Vinceguerra, of Italy. It is safe to say that no such gathering of geographical crowned heads has ever been brought from Europe to America.

The Americans already enlisted, either as round-trip or as temporary members, include,

among professors of geography, Barrows and Cowles, of Chicago; Brigham, of Colgate; Bowman, of Yale; Davis and Ward, of Harvard; Dodge and Johnson, of Columbia; Fenneman, of Cincinnati; Jefferson, of Ypsilanti, and Martin and Whitbeck, of Wisconsin, as well as a number of scientific men from various parts of the country representing subjects allied to geography. Professor W. M. Davis, of Harvard University, has been appointed director of the excursion. The party as now made up includes over fifty round-trip members and some twenty or more temporary members. The number of participants is still to be somewhat enlarged, and correspondence (addressed to the director, Transcontinental Excursion American Geographical Society, Broadway at 156th Street, New York) is therefore invited from proficient geographers (men only) who may desire to take part in the excursion for longer or shorter periods, and who can aid the American members already enlisted in explaining our geographical features to the European members. Place on the special train in which the excursion will be made can not be promised to all applicants, but it is hoped that all professional geographers who wish to take part in the excursion can be accommodated in one or another part of the route. The excursion train will leave New York about August 22, and return in the early part of October.

The route of the excursion includes Niagara, Detroit, Chicago, Madison, St. Paul—Minneapolis—probably Duluth and the Iron region—the Yellowstone Park, Spokane, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland—probably San Francisco, possibly the Yosemite Valley—Salt Lake City, Grand Junction, Denver, Albuquerque, the Grand Canyon of the Colorado in northern Arizona, Kansas City, St. Louis—possibly Memphis, Birmingham and Chattanooga—Washington and New York. Numerous stops will be made at points of geographical interest on the way. A most generous hospitality is promised at many places, where the party will be entertained in local clubs and taken about in automobiles. The cities of the far northwest are particularly

active; they are planning to take the excursionists up Mt. Rainier through the superb forest that clothes the lower slopes of this great volcano, to the hotel situated near the timberline, whence the glaciers of the higher slopes may be seen; and also to Crater Lake, the waters of which occupy a huge cavity of engulfment in a once lofty volcano, one of the most remarkable features of the west, although as yet not widely known. Two days will be spent in Washington, where visits will be made to various scientific bureaus of the government. The final meeting in New York will be made the occasion of a more general invitation than can be given for a limited excursion on a railway train; and at that time, it is desired that the European geographers should have opportunity of meeting a large number of their American colleagues. Due announcement will be made of the place and date of this final meeting, as well as of the speakers and the subjects that they will treat.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the meeting of the London Institution of Electrical Engineers on May 16, a marble bust of the late Lord Kelvin was presented to the institution on behalf of Lady Kelvin.

SOME of the associates and students of Dr. Simon Flexner during the period from 1899 to 1904, when he was professor of pathology at the University of Pennsylvania, have presented to the university a portrait showing Dr. Flexner in his laboratory, painted by Adele Herter, of New York City.

At the annual meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, held on May 8, 1912, it was voted, upon the recommendation of the Rumford Committee, to award the Rumford premium to Frederic Eugene Ives for his optical inventions, particularly in color photography and photo-engraving.

THE Bessemer gold medal of the British Iron and Steel Institute has been awarded to Mr. John Henry Darby. Mr. Darby's connection with the iron and steel trades is best known from his association, as far back as in

the year 1880, with the introduction of the basic process. The first open-hearth furnaces for the manufacture of steel on a large scale erected in Great Britain were those built under Mr. Darby's superintendence at Brymbo.

THE congratulations of the council of the Chemical Society, London, have been offered to Mr. E. Riley, who has completed sixty years of fellowship, and to Major C. E. Beadnell, R.A., Mr. H. O. Huskisson and Mr. F. Norrington, who, during 1911, attained their jubilee as fellows.

MR. MARK A. CARLETON, for the past eighteen years in charge of grain investigations in the Bureau of Plant Industry, and well known as the introducer and propagator of Durum wheat and the Swedish select oat, has resigned his present position to take charge of the work of the Pennsylvania Chestnut Tree Blight Commission.

MR. C. E. CRAIG, instructor in agronomy in Purdue University, has accepted the position of agronomist in the Polytechnic School at Porto Alegre, Brazil.

DR. MAURICE J. BABB, assistant professor of mathematics at the University of Pennsylvania, has been elected president of the Association of Teachers of Mathematics of the Middle States and Maryland.

MR. H. C. K. PLUMMER has been elected, as we learn from *Nature*, by the board of Trinity College, Dublin, to be royal astronomer in Ireland, in succession to Dr. E. T. Whittaker, who was recently elected professor of mathematics at Edinburgh University. Mr. Plummer is the son of Mr. W. E. Plummer, director of the Liverpool Observatory, and has been second assistant to Professor H. H. Turner at the Oxford University Observatory since 1901.

At the annual meeting of the British Institution of Civil Engineers, held on April 30, the following were elected president and vice-presidents: *President*, Mr. Robert Elliott-Cooper; *vice-presidents*, Mr. A. G. Lyster, Mr. B. H. Blyth, Mr. J. Strain and Mr. G. Robert Jebb. The council of the institution has made the following awards for papers read