

the institute. The state has availed itself of the faculty of technology and of the shops, laboratories and experiment stations and it has furnished problems for the student body. But all of this, the committee believes, has been in an incidental and casual way. There has been cooperation undefined, unguided and fragmentary. It has lacked the stimulus of continuity or organization, the spur of recognized state service. "The time has come," writes the committee, "to formulate the union, to make it official, to the end that the institute may be strengthened, in power and prestige, and that the state may derive in full the benefit at hand."

PRESERVATION OF THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS OF CHINA

PRESIDENT HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN of the American Museum of Natural History has addressed under date of May 14, 1914, to Secretary of State Bryan and to President Yuan Shih-k'ai of China, the following letters relative to the preservation of the art and historical monuments of China.

HONORABLE WILLIAM J. BRYAN,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir: The Chinese race furnishes perhaps the greatest of all records of human society, and its future is closely associated with the destiny of society in this hemisphere. Our country contains an ever-increasing number of men and women devoted to the hope of China's triumph in modern civilization and government, in which case she will extend her matchless social and human experiment continuous from the remotest times unbroken. In this connection interested persons and institutions in the United States are seeking to establish in China a school of archeology as a means to encourage protection of the antiquities of China and provide for study there of China's ancient history.

On account of the ruthless destruction and plunder of antiquities in China since 1900, involving American citizens, the following individuals and organizations represented, having memorialized President Yuan Shih-k'ai as shown herewith, have the honor to request your aid in the official transmission of their memorial herewith enclosed, directly to Peking.

Furthermore, we have the honor to request:

First, That the Department of State, through its officials in China, use such means as it may determine to discourage all American citizens from vandalizing in China and from trafficking in broken and stolen sculptures and other archeological and art works of historical value belonging to the people of China, and to render aid with counsel wherever possible to shield Americans from being involved with plunderers of Chinese antiquities, and in all ways possible assist in preserving the good name of the United States, its citizens, agents and institutions, free from connection with the destruction of Chinese monuments and antiquities and the traffic in stolen and otherwise immorally or criminally obtained Chinese objects of antiquity.

Second, That the Department of State, officially, semi-officially or unofficially, as possible, through its officials in China and elsewhere, discourage the plunder and destruction of Chinese antiquities in times of peace or war in China, whenever opportunities permit, and support and encourage the Chinese officials and people in taking effective means to conserve their antiquities for China's benefit and the benefit of other nations.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN,
President

PRESIDENT YUAN SHIH-K'AI.

Sir: We have learned with profound concern, that through various evils of modern origin, monuments and antiquities in China invaluable to present and future generations of Chinese and to the world, have been irreparably lost and destroyed; that the high material value put by Western civilization upon antiquities and products of art showing the progress of mankind, has lately resulted in the commercialization, plunder and destruction of antiquities in China beyond the power of ordinary influences to control; furthermore, that such plunder and destruction not only are despoiling China of some of the garments of her ancient civilization, but actually tend to break down Chinese society by depriving the Chinese people of their heritage, besides crippling research and education, and retarding progress;

Therefore, having a friendly interest in the good of China and the republic, and having in mind the interests of enlightenment of human welfare generally, as well as the responsibilities devolving upon the nations and upon all well-wishers and friends of China, we have the honor herein to memorialize your Excellency and respectfully and earnestly to urge as follows:

That in view of all the circumstances and conditions; in accordance with ample traditional practice and precedent established by China's ancient rulers; and in cooperation and harmony with the policy of the most advanced governments, the national government of China make new legal recognition of China's monuments and antiquities, and of all forms of national art of antiquarian and historical value as national property, and, in the manner adopted by other nations, newly take national possession of the same and bring them under national protection for preservation in China for the lasting benefit of the Chinese people and of mankind generally.

Respectfully submitted,
(Signed) HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN,
President

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION IN AUSTRALIA¹

At the end of June and in the first week of July 400 members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science will leave England to meet for the annual sessions of the Association in the state capitals of Australia. The visit is made at the invitation of the Australian Commonwealth Government, whose guests the members of the association will be, and by whose generosity so protracted a journey is made possible.

Such a meeting is memorable in many ways. It adds completeness to that system of exchange of scientific thought and scientific men between the United Kingdom and the Dominions over-seas which has been steadily growing since the beginning of the century; and it will serve to link still more closely the newer universities with the older throughout the whole of the Empire. The previous visits of the British Association to Canada and to South Africa gave fresh impetus to scientific work, and were followed by tangible results in the creation of new scientific institutions and laboratories. There is assurance beforehand that this precedent will be repeated in Australia, for one of the objects of the visit is to afford opportunities for joint discussion on cooperation in research between the southern continent and the countries of the Northern

Hemisphere in astronomical, meteorological and anthropological problems.

There are advantages of a reciprocal kind to those who would not otherwise sacrifice four months of the scientist's year in a visit to Australia. Problems await attack in solar physics and in the distribution of the stars; problems in the evolution of segregated species of animals and plants; of physiological adaptation; of atmospheric electricity and earth magnetism; of the antiquity of races and of the development of social conditions—in short, problems affecting every department of science, which can only be carried to completion with the aid of data obtained in the Southern Hemisphere and the southernmost continent.

The commonwealth government, the state universities and the Australian people are making every provision that the fullest opportunity shall be given to the meeting to investigate both the work that is being done and that which has to be done in the fields of zoology, botany, physiology and engineering. It should be added as not the least remarkable of the circumstances of this meeting that this is the first time that any government has set aside so large a subsidy for the purposes of the encouragement of science.

The members of the association proceed in two parties. The advance party of 70, in which the president-elect, Professor William Bateson, F.R.S., travels, and which takes with it a number of zoologists, botanists and geologists, will go by way of the Cape to Perth, in Western Australia. This party stays a week, making excursions for field work in the sand plains, in the Darling Range, the Irwin River district, the coast or the Kalgoorlie goldfield during the larger part of it; and, at most, three evening lectures will be delivered, one of them by Professor Herdman on "Life of the Sea," and another by Professor A. S. Eddington on "The Stars and their Movements." This visit is an unofficial part of the meeting; but since among those who take part in it are Professor F. W. Dyson (the astronomer royal), Professor H. E. Armstrong, Professor Poulton, Professor Dendy and Professor W. J. Pope (presidents respectively of the

¹ From the London *Times*.