

not only a matter of interest in the laboratory and the factory, but that it is of vital importance to men in every-day life.

A. SILVERMAN

EXPLORATIONS FOR RUBBER

The Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry gives the following particulars in regard to expeditions now investigating possible sources of rubber supply:

W. L. Schurz, United States commercial attaché to Brazil, is in charge of the field expedition that is to investigate the Amazon rubber region in behalf of the Department of Commerce. He will be assisted in this work by O. D. Hargis, rubber plantation expert, and C. F. Marbut, of the Bureau of Soils, Department of Agriculture, who will make a study of the soils of this region in reference to rubber production. This party will cooperate with four experts from the Bureau of Plant Industry—Carl D. La Rue, James R. Weir, E. L. Prizer and M. K. Jessup—whom the Department of Agriculture has sent to Brazil to make a biological study of rubber plants in the Amazon Valley. They sailed from New York direct for Para about the middle of July and will probably be gone about eight months.

D. M. Figart, a special agent of the Department of Commerce who is well known in Far Eastern circles, sailed from the United States last month on his way to southern India, Ceylon, British Malaya and the Dutch East Indies, where he will make a comprehensive study of all phases of the rubber industry.

Two other parties, one for northern South America, Central America and Mexico, and one for the Philippines, are being planned.

Several months ago Harry N. Whitford, professor of tropical forestry, Yale University, was appointed by the Department of Commerce and placed in charge of the investigation of sources of crude rubber and the possibilities of developing rubber plantations in the Philippine Islands and in Latin America. J. J. Blandin, formerly in charge of rubber plantations of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, was designated as his assistant.

SCIENTIFIC WORK IN SIBERIA

PROFESSOR T. D. A. COCKERELL, of the University of Colorado, in a letter from Vladivostok, Siberia, says:

We arrived here safely on July 3 and had no difficulty whatever with the authorities. We had, however, been detained a week in Tsuruga, Japan, because the Osaka Shosow Kaisha would not take us on their ship, fearing trouble with the Russians at this end. Next Tuesday we

hope to start for the Amagu River (about 400 miles up the coast), to examine the deposit that contains fossil insects. We go in a small trading steamer. Last night we were entertained at dinner by a company of scientific people of Vladivostok, and speeches were made by Mr. N. Solovieff, director of the museum, and Mr. Davidoff, director of the Hydrographical Institute, both expressing the most cordial attitude toward American scientific men, and the desire for better understanding and more cooperation. We find a very considerable amount of important scientific work going on here. Thus the geographical committee, under Dr. Kryshstofovich, has issued a series of very interesting contributions to geology and paleontology; Dr. Paul de Wittenbourg, with whom we have become well acquainted, has published extensively on local geology; Dr. Arnold Moltrecht, an exceedingly keen naturalist of wide experience, has done a great deal of work on the Lepidoptera; the Hydrographical Survey is actively preparing and publishing review maps of the coast, the old maps being in some cases at least 20 miles wrong, resulting in shipwrecks. They are also collecting quantities of marine animals. Mr. Vladimirsky of the observatory is keeping the most accurate records, using in some cases new instruments which he has designed or invented, and had made in Vladivostok. The Commercial School, under Mr. Lutrenko, is a large and excellently equipped institution, with departments of biology, chemistry, physics, etc. Mrs. J. K. Shishkin is a botanist who has worked on the flora of the region, and has prepared a good herbarium, the condition of the plants being exceptionally fine. Altogether, we find much scientific activity, in spite of many unfavorable conditions, and every promise of important developments in a country extraordinarily rich as a field for research. All the men desire cooperation with the scientific men of America and are extremely anxious to obtain our more recent publications, especially those of a general character, monographs, and works on the natural history of the Northern Pacific countries. We expect to sail from Yokohama for Vancouver about September 1, but it all depends on when we can get back from the Amagu River.

APPOINTMENTS IN AGRICULTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

TRACY I. STORER, field naturalist of the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, has been appointed assistant professor of zoology at the Branch of the College of Agriculture at Davis.

William Adams Lippincott, professor of poultry husbandry in the Kansas State Agriculture College, has been appointed professor of poultry husbandry in the university and head of the department of poultry husbandry at the Branch of the College of Agriculture at Davis.

William Henry Chandler, professor of pomology and vice-director of research of the New York State College of Agriculture, Cornell University, has been appointed professor of pomology in the University of