Eastward extension of prairie forms in the latitude of the transition zone south of the Great Lakes is a phenomenon in line with this hypothesis. Also, certain eastern birds cross the prairies and penetrate surprising distances to the northwest in the ill-defined and broken transition zone there existent between the western and Canadian faunal areas, a notable example being the eastern kingbird, which breeds at least in eastern Washington. The prairie area of the Mississippi Valley (as differentiated from the dry plains area west of it) is a transition zone between the east, with sufficient, and the west, with insufficient, rainfall. In the main, its bird fauna is either eastern or western, but it does not lack species almost exclusively confined to it, such as Bell's vireo, a summer resident, or Harris's sparrow, as a transient species.

In conclusion, the writer wishes to point out his concept that between two faunal areas there is normally a transition zone. To consider this also as a faunal area and use it as a unit in zoographical discussions can lead only to complication and confusion. Looked at as what it is, a separate phenomenon, it will repay analysis and study.

J. T. NICHOLS

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM
OF NATURAL HISTORY

THE INTERNATIONAL CRITICAL TABLES

THE Board of Editors of International Critical Tables met in Washington, D. C., for a three-day session beginning on August 16 for the purpose of selecting the cooperating experts who will be invited to assume responsibility for critically compiling the various classes of data to be included in the tables. It is estimated that some three or four hundred cooperating experts will be needed and the selection will be made largely on the basis of recommendations received from the corresponding editors and their advisory committees from the principal countries of the world. Several sessions of the board will be required before the complete list can be made up. Invitations to act in the capacity of cooperating experts will be issued from the editorial office as fast as action is taken by the board and, from the responses thus far received, a full measure of cooperation is expected from the chemists and physicists of the world in making this undertaking a success. In dividing the subject-matter for purposes of assignment to the cooperating experts, the editorial board has endeavored to make each assignment of such a magnitude that it can be reasonably completed in a year's time without proving too great a burden upon any expert and if each one associated with the work will cheerfully accept and carry out his share and responsibility, the combined result of the labors of all who cooperate in the work will be invaluable to science and industry.

The scope of the work is so great and the fields to be covered so varied in character that only through the joint labors of a large number of experts will it be possible to bring the undertaking to a successful conclusion in a reasonable time. The International *Annual* Tables is now in its twelfth year. It has demonstrated the possibility of preparing through international cooperation an annual abstract of the results of the world's researches in quantitative measurement. The purpose of International *Critical* Tables is to take an account of stock of our present quantitative knowledge of material things and to publish in convenient form the result of expert criticism of this knowledge. The practicability of further effective international cooperation on scientific projects will doubtless be judged largely by the degree of success obtained in these efforts.

The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and the International Research Council have given the weight of their authority and influence to International Critical Tables. American industries will supply the necessary funds. It remains only for the scientists of the world to contribute their time, energy and expert knowledge to insure the successful completion of the undertaking. Science itself is international. The preparation of the record of scientific achievement in quantitative measurement should also be international. If the results of scientific research are to be utilized most efficiently, they must first be made easily accessible. To make these results accessible so that they may be utilized to the best advantage is as much the duty of men of science as are the researches which produce them, and the task of rendering these results readily accessible requires the cooperation of the same types of expert knowledge as have been employed in producing them.

As rapidly as appointments of cooperating experts are made and accepted, announcement thereof will be made in the scientific and technical press.

The organization of International Critical Tables is as follows:

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE PULPWOOD RESOURCES OF CANADA

A ROYAL commission to investigate Canada's pulpwood resources and the advisability of prohibiting the export of this product has been appointed by the Canadian Government. The commission is headed by Joseph Picard, Quebec, a manufacturer and business man, and includes in its personnel two lawyers, one lumberman and one contractor. Instructions have been issued to the commission to inquire into the report upon the forest resources, with particular regard to the extent in each province of woods of various kinds available for the manufacture of pulp. Other directions to the commission follow:

1. To inquire into the quantity of pulp available, owned by the provincial governments and subject under provincial laws and regulations to restrictions requiring the partial or total manufacture of such wood in Canada.

2. To inquire into the quantity of wood so available on lands owned by the Canadian Government and subject under federal laws and regulations to restrictions requiring partial or total manufacture in Canada.

3. The quantity of wood on other lands and the conditions under which such lands are held, whether by ownership or lease, whether by corporations or individuals, whether by citizens of Canada or citizens of other countries.

4. The quantity of pulpwood produced in each province during the past ten years, showing the portion used in Canada and the portion exported.

5. To investigate the question of the restriction of the export of pulpwood from Canada, and any other matter touching upon the production, manufacture or sale of pulpwood essential to a comprehensive consideration of the question of the restriction of export.

The commission is to make recommendations that may be deemed expedient for the better conservation of the supply of pulpwood for present and future use. The pulpwood investigation was promised at the last session of Parliament, when the Government was given power to prohibit the export of pulpwood at that time. The Minister of Finance promised that the Government would not exercise its authority in this respect until after a searching review of the whole situation.

Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering states that the situation brought about by the proposed embargo "has given rise to much speculation as to Canada's ability to continue supplying the United States with pulpwood. It is estimated that Canada has 250,000,000 acres of forest growth of merchantable size, and 600,000,000 forested acres of young timber suitable for pulpwood. It is assumed that the 600,000,000 forested acres of young timber would yield 1,250,000,000 cords of pulpwood. The present consumption is 4,000,000 cords per annum. On that basis the supply would last for over 300 years, without allowing for from two to three per cent. of regrowth; but at that point the authorities differ. It is stoutly maintained by some experts that Canada has not as much pulpwood in sight as is supposed, and that on the basis of consumption during the past twenty years in particular, the resources would be exhausted in 60 years, or reduced to a volume which would mean exceedingly high cost for pulp."

THE FOSSIL FIELD IN MONGOLIA

THE Peking correspondent of the London *Times* writes that the researches of Mr. Roy Chapman Andrews, who for some years has been exploring the less-known regions of China and adjacent territory in the interest of the Natural History Museum of New York, are likely to add considerably to scientific understanding of prehistoric times.

Mr. Andrews concludes that Mongolia is one of the greatest fossil fields in the world, and his discoveries in this respect go far to confirm the theory that Central Asia was the center of the dispersal of the mammalian life of Europe and America. He says that the existence of a land connection between Asia and North America has been unquestionably established.

With reference to the work of the Third Asiatic Expedition under his leadership, now busy in the Gobi Desert at a point about four hundred miles northwest of Peking, Mr. Andrews says:

The first month of the expedition's work is far beyond our hopes. Where we expected only fragments we have discovered an immense deposit of large and small dinosaur bones. It will require many months to exhaust this region, but we have removed two partially complete skeletons and parts of several others. This includes herbivorous dinosaurs 30 feet long of the iguanodon type and smaller carnivorous species. These bones are at least five million years old, but beautifully preserved. They probably are related to European types and, with our former work, indicate that Central Asia is the ancestral home of the dinosaurs, which migrated to Europe and America.

The expedition is now divided into two parts. One is working in the dinosaur beds and the other exploring later geological strata. The second group, camped 24