

waiian nor Japanese, but governed by scientists from all Pacific regions.

Conferences are being held with the heads of several delegations already there from Pacific lands, and cable invitations have been sent to others to hurry on and take part in the deliberations as to the work the institute shall undertake for the peoples of the Pacific area.

The scientists who have been for some months planning the Pan-Pacific Research Institute will make a report at the coming conference, and it is understood that the institute will begin operations at once, offering its services for the years of follow-up work needed in making the resolutions passed at the coming conference effective.

The Castle home is one of the largest in Honolulu, amply housing two score workers, with one extra out-building almost as large, which is excellently planned for laboratory uses. In addition there are several smaller buildings, four acres of ground, a complete set of concrete tanks and water supply sufficient for laboratory purposes. The buildings could house, beside the permanent staff, some forty visiting research scientists.

According to press dispatches, Dr. David Starr Jordan, chancellor emeritus of Stanford University, has tentatively accepted the directorship of the institute.

#### THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY'S CHINA EXPEDITION

JOSEPH F. ROCK, head of the National Geographic Society's expedition into Yunnan, southwestern Szechuan and southeastern Tibet, has just returned to this country after eighteen months in the field and reported the finding of aboriginal tribes in China practicing religious ceremonies which existed before Buddhism was introduced into either China or Tibet.

Mr. Rock found a blight-resistant chestnut tree, made observations over considerable unmapped territory, traversed a hitherto unexplored Yangtze River gorge which in places is much deeper than the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, and brought back important plant and bird collections.

The expedition's collection of herbarium specimens approximated some 60,000 sheets representing some 12,000 numbers. These plants were collected in the extreme northwest of Yunnan, Tsarong, southeastern Tibet, the independent Lama Kingdom of Mili and also in eastern Yunnan. The birds collected number about 1,600. These have been carefully skinned and prepared and labeled, and scientific data accompanies each specimen. They are from regions where few collections had previously been made. The collection contains land and water birds and in addition a few hundred mammals. The birds and mammals will be

presented to the Smithsonian Institution as a gift from the National Geographic Society.

Chestnuts of apparently immune species have been presented to the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry. In addition a fine set of coniferous plants such as firs, spruces, hemlocks, pines and junipers were turned over to the Department of Agriculture. A large collection of seeds of rhododendrons also was forwarded to the department. Seeds of 493 kinds of rhododendron were sent to the department, by far the largest single introduction ever made into this country.

Mr. Rock's chestnuts include several species heretofore unknown to the horticultural world and perhaps even to botanical science. The chestnut introduction is of great interest to the tanning industry which has depended upon chestnut to a great extent and has recently faced the possibility of this supply being destroyed through the ravages of blight.

Mr. Rock's plant specimens were forwarded from time to time and rhododendrons also have been sent to Kew Gardens, to Edinburgh, Scotland, and to the Honorable Vicary Gibbs and A. K. Bulley, both of England, amateurs who specialize in these plants and whose collections are famous. In the United States some of them already have been planted at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, in the Puget Sound Region and along the eastern seaboard. Further distributions are to be made in this country.

Gentians, primroses and other alpine plants, of which sets were sent by Mr. Rock, will be of great interest to gardeners in this country and in Europe. Some of these sets also have been sent to botanical gardens and plantsmen in Great Britain.

#### THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

THE centennial celebration of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the oldest college of science and engineering in any English-speaking country, will take place at Troy, New York, on October 3 and 4. There will be present official delegates from educational institutions, scientific organizations and engineering societies throughout the world as well as from each alumni association and from each class since 1857. The program as thus far arranged is as follows:

OCTOBER 3

*Morning:* Academic Procession.

Convocation. Addresses by:

Hon. Herbert Hoover, secretary of commerce of the United States.

Hon. Alfred E. Smith, governor of the State of New York.

Hon. Harry E. Clinton, mayor of Troy.