of the whites differs in more than one gene from that of the normal San Blas Indians.

A more detailed presentation of the observations made and the data collected will be made in the near future.

REGINALD G. HARRIS
BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY,
COLD SPRING HARBOR, L. I., N. Y.

THE JAMES SIMPSON–ROOSEVELT EXPEDITION OF THE FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

COLONEL THEODORE ROOSEVELT, JR., and his brother Kermit, sons of the former president, sailed from New York April 11 to lead an expedition through southern and central Asia under the auspices of the Field Museum of Natural History of Chicago. The magic of the name Roosevelt has led to much attention from the newspapers, and many questions are still being asked. To meet some of those which may arise in the minds of readers of SCIENCE, therefore, I have been requested by Mr. D. C. Davies, director of Field Museum, to make a brief statement regarding the expedition.

The possibility of such an expedition had been considered by Mr. Kermit Roosevelt for some time, but just what form it would take and whether or not his brother Theodore could join forces with him was not decided until quite recently. Like their father, both the younger Roosevelts have an extraordinary interest in natural history and a knowledge of animal life far beyond that of the average sportsman. They have read widely in the literature of zoological exploration and are by no means superficial in their grasp of fundamental problems connected with the study of the origin, evolution and distribution of faunas and special groups. As boys, they collected and prepared specimens to form small private collections of their own, and are thoroughly familiar with the detailed purposes and requirements of museum material. Therefore, like their father, they wished to have an expedition which would improve all opportunities to make it of lasting value to science. This was beyond their personal means, so they made known their desires to Mr. Stanley Field, president of the Field Museum. Mr. Field immediately took up the matter with Mr. James Simpson, a trustee of the museum, who had previously manifested his interest in the institution by the gift of its public lecture hall, known as the James Simpson Theater. Mr. Simpson, thereupon, agreed to provide the necessary support, involving no remuneration for the Roosevelts, but making it possible for them to carry all desired equipment for general zoological collecting and to employ trained assistants to cover special fields. The trip thus became a museum expedition and the principals have made their plans accordingly with a spirit quite as if they were regular members of the museum staff.

The expedition will enter India at Karachi and Bombay and proceed to Srinagar in Kashmir. Thence it is planned to cross the Himalayas *via* Leh and the Karakoram Pass, to make excursions into the Pamir region and then to push on across Turkestan to the Thian Shan Mountains. Subsequent movements will depend upon circumstances, but it is hoped to work in other parts of Turkestan and adjoining regions. The duration of the trip also is uncertain and, if necessary to accomplish the desired results, it will doubtless be prolonged beyond the present year. Newspaper accounts have, perhaps, borne rather heavily on the idea that the region to be visited is wholly unknown and quite unexplored. This of course is not justified, for although it is remote and difficult of access, sportsmen and travelers, mainly British and less famous than Marco Polo, have traversed much of it, and various books and maps have been published. Many parts of it, however, offer wholly new fields for the modern zoological collector and carefully made collections are particularly desirable at this time to supplement those being made somewhat farther north by Roy Chapman Andrews and the Third Asiatic Expedition in connection with which the American Museum and the Field Museum have a cooperative agreement. Aside from brief notes in various serials, the only study of any considerable part of the vertebrates of the region is found in the "Scientific Results of the Second Yarkand Expedition," published in 1879.

For practical reasons, the expedition is accompanied at the outset by only one trained zoological collector, Mr. George K. Cherrie, but others will be engaged in England or in India, and no pains or expense will be spared to make thorough collections, at least of all the vertebrates of the regions visited. Besides the usual equipment for collecting skins, skulls and skeletons of mammals and birds, portable tanks, preservative and paraphernalia are being carried to enable attention to be given to reptiles and amphibians or freshwater fishes. The party will be divided from time to time and special collectors will be sent into particular regions to work uninterruptedly along particular lines. Mr. Cherrie is known especially as an ornithologist, but is competent in all branches of field work and, by his long experience on many previous expeditions, is especially qualified for the general supervision of work of this kind. He was at one time connected with the Field Museum in its department of zoology and, later, he held a position with the Brooklyn Museum. In recent years he has been a free lance collector employed only at intervals, mainly by the American Museum of Natural History. His free-

dom from engagement at this time combined with his warm friendship with Kermit Roosevelt, gained during association on the famous "River of Doubt" expedition in South America, led to his immediate selection for the present Asiatic trip. Needless to say, hundreds of volunteers from all parts of the country, trained and untrained and of both sexes, have sent in urgent pleas for employment, but none could be accepted.

The Roosevelts, themselves, will doubtless devote much of their time to big game hunting, but practically all of it will be directed to obtaining selected animals of different ages and sexes to fulfill the requirements of large habitat groups for the Museum. Among the animals to be especially sought for this purpose are Marco Polo's Sheep (*Ovis poli*) which, on account of its very long and gracefully curved horns, is generally regarded as the finest of all wild sheep; the Thian Shan Ibex (*Capra sibirica*), a magnificent species with scimitar horns averaging nearly a foot longer than those of the European Ibex, and the Markhor (*Capra falconeri*), handsomest and most prized of all wild goats. These and other rare and interesting ruminants inhabit very high and mostly very rough country at altitudes of 16,000 feet or more, where a large part of the time will be spent. In central Turkestan beyond the Himalayas, however, there is lower ground and warmer climate, and here it is hoped to hunt for long-haired tigers. Specimens of these tigers have reached one European museum and two races have been characterized indicating distinctions from the Manchurian Tiger and the southern forms. No specimens are in American museums, and the large fauna which is doubtless associated with animals of this kind is very little known.

WILFRED H. OSGOOD
FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF FORESTRY

BY agreement between the International Institute of Agriculture and the Italian government a committee has been established for organizing a world's forestry congress to take place in Rome early in May, 1926. The headquarters of this committee, which is composed as follows, are at the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome: *President,* Professor Arrigo Serpieri, director of the Royal Higher Institute of Agriculture and Forestry at Florence, member of the Italian government; *Vice-presidents,* M. Anders Fjelstad, delegate of Norway at the International Institute of Agriculture, and Dr. Alessandro Stella, director-general of Forests and State Lands at the Italian Ministry of National Economy; *Secretary,* Signor Ariberto Merendi, Chief Inspector of Forests at the Ministry of National Economy; M. Deoclecio de Campos, delegate of Brazil at the International Institute of Agriculture; Signor Gian Francesco Guerrazzi, delegate of Italian Somaliland at the Institute, and Professor Asher Hobson, delegate of the United States of America at the Institute.

The congress will bring together experts in forestry and the timber and allied industries from all parts of the world. At the same time, in conjunction with the International Fair at Milan, there will be held an important exhibition of forest products and the machinery used in their conversion, which will enable visitors to examine the different products of the wood-manufacturing industries and the wood-working machines made in the various countries. Various excursions to the more typical forest lands in Italy, and possibly in other countries, will be arranged to follow the work of the congress.

WORK OF THE NORTHEASTERN FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION

ANNOUNCEMENT is made by the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station that its work will be expanded during the coming year to include investigations of insect pests and tree diseases in cooperation with the Bureau of Entomology and the Bureau of Plant Industry. The investigations of insect pests are being financed in part by contributions from several individuals, who desire to remain anonymous, for the control of the white pine weevil. H. J. MacAloney, of the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University, will be in general charge of the work. The sum of $2,500 for each of the two succeeding years has been made available for the study, which will be conducted in cooperation between the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, the Bureau of Entomology, the Harvard Forest, the New York State Conservation Commission and other interested agencies. The white pine weevil, at the control of which the study is aimed, is an insect which annually causes much damage by destroying the terminal shoots of young pine trees. This results in decreased growth, and frequently in malformation of the trees attacked. The insect is distributed throughout the eastern United States and is one of the serious drawbacks to the profitable growing of white pine.

Other entomological studies which will be conducted next year at the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station include observations on the larch sawfly, which some forty or fifty years ago practically exterminated all the mature larch in the northeastern states, and which appears again to be becoming active in increasing numbers. This work will be handled by J. A. Beal, of the New York State College of For-