

hot mud, and not lava as has been the case in the Goenoeng Batoer eruption.

(Signed) EDWARD M. GROTH,
American Consul

RESULTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN- CHRYSLER EXPEDITION TO AFRICA

THE National Zoological Park, under the Smithsonian Institution, doubled its animal population of approximately 1,600 with the recent arrival of the Smithsonian-Chrysler live game collecting expedition from British East Africa. This accession gives the park one of the best representations of African material in the country. From the standpoint of the scientist and the student of natural history, it is particularly valuable because of the many smaller and rarer creatures which can ordinarily not be brought to this country due to the difficulties attendant on importation.

Besides the two giraffes which were the prime objective of the expedition, it brought back many animals which it is believed have never been seen in this country before. These include five purple-faced monkeys from Ceylon; the elephant shrew, about the size of a house rat; the water mongoose; blue monkeys; five varieties of parrots, and many soft-shelled tortoises. The prize bird is the shoebill stork—a large grayish blue bird with an enormous bill like the top of a shoe. This bird came from the Sudan government, and only one other specimen is believed to have come to this country. Its habitat is the White Nile Country, west of Abyssinia.

Specimens of the antelope family include a blue duiker and a dikdik, which is about the size of a small rabbit though with perfectly developed horns, and a greater kudu.

Among the 1,600 specimens there are, of course, many duplicates. In accordance with the policy of the Smithsonian Institution, these will be distributed to other zoological gardens throughout the country. Providing accommodations for all these animals is proving a problem of great difficulty, especially before the completion of the new buildings ordered for the zoological park. It will be many months before all the specimens can be put on exhibition.

The care of the animals during the forty-five days spent on the high seas proved difficult. Many of the tropical animals are very sensitive and require much individual attention. The expedition brought back two Tanganyika natives, who are adepts in the care of the captured animals. They will be returned to Tanganyika after a short time in Washington. With their aid the expedition was successful on the trip across, losing few animals during the voyage.

THE GREENLAND EXPEDITION OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

THE American Museum of Natural History Greenland Expedition, directed by George Palmer Putnam, the publisher, returned early in October from three and a half months in the North.

Captain Bartlett's schooner, the *Morrissey*, covered in all some 8,500 miles, some 3,600 north of the Arctic Circle. The furthest north was Whale Sound in latitude 78° 30'.

The primary purpose of the expedition was to secure specimens for the American Museum of Natural History, chiefly for its new hall of ocean life.

Most important among the captures is a group of narwhal, that somewhat fabulous "unicorn of the sea" which hitherto it is said has been unrepresented in any museum except by isolated skeletons. The narwhal collection includes an adult male and female specimen, complete with skeletons, skulls, flippers, plaster casts, samples of skin for color and texture photographs and measurements. Everything is there with which, for exhibition purposes, to reproduce the animals exactly. In addition to other narwhal skeletons and skulls the collection includes a small narwhal, embalmed whole, and two other complete specimens, one of a mature foetus and the other of an embryo. All these came from the Whale Sound territory and seem to represent the narwhal about as thoroughly as could be desired.

The further list of specimens brought back under the direction of H. C. Raven, zoologist of the museum, includes an excellent group of walrus; a large male and female complete with skeletons, hides and ivory, two other skins and skulls and a small walrus captured alive and subsequently chloroformed and embalmed. Then there are sharks and seals and lesser mammals, a collection of fish and bones and birds and a unique assortment of oceanographic specimens dredged from the ocean floor by Captain Bartlett. The total quantity was necessarily held down by the limited working storage facilities available on a hundred-foot schooner accommodating a total personnel of twenty, and even further by the fact that because of the condition of the vessel, after it had been aground in Northumberland Island, it was wisdom to leave the far north perhaps a fortnight earlier than might otherwise have been done.

The personnel of the party included George Palmer Putnam, the director; Captain Robert A. Bartlett, the skipper; Knud Rasmussen, Danish scientist and explorer; H. C. Raven, of the American Museum of Natural History, zoologist; Daniel W. Streeter, of Buffalo, big game hunter; Dr. Peter Heinbecker, of the Presbyterian Hospital, New York City; Art