

THE STOLL-McCRACKEN SIBERIAN-ARCTIC EXPEDITION

AN expedition, to be known as the Stoll-McCracken Siberian-Arctic Expedition of the American Museum of Natural History, is preparing to explore new lands on the Arctic coast of Siberia and collect flora and fauna for the museum.

The expedition will be financed and directed by Charles H. Stoll, a New York lawyer and sportsman, and led by Harold McCracken, associate editor of *Field and Stream*, who has spent five years in the Arctic and who is known as a photographer of wild animals. He spent two years at the head of an Ohio State University expedition in Alaska. Captain Robert A. Bartlett, commander of the *Roosevelt* when Admiral Peary reached the North Pole, will command the expedition's vessel, the *Morrissey*, which was used during the past two years by George Palmer Putnam on expeditions to Greenland and Baffin Land.

Other members of the expedition include Dr. H. E. Anthony, curator of mammals of the American Museum of Natural History; R. B. Potter, of the museum staff, and Edward Namley, of Marietta, Ohio, operator of the *Morrissey* radio.

The search for the natural mummies of the post-glacial period will be one of the objectives of the expedition. The party will explore Czar Nicholas II Land, an island of unknown size north of Cape Chelyuska off the coast of Asiatic Siberia, about 600 miles south of the Pole. It will study the economic possibilities of Kamchatka, which is rich in timber, coal, gold, lead, zinc and other minerals, and in grazing lands. But it will be concerned chiefly in hunting for the museum specimens of animals and birds of the north.

The expedition will sail north from Seattle about April 1. Captain Bartlett left on December 8 for Sydney, N. S., to bring the *Morrissey* to New York to be outfitted for the journey. He will then sail through the Panama Canal to Seattle to await the party.

The exploration will last about six or seven months. The *Morrissey* will sail from Seattle by the inside passage to Kodiak, Alaska, and thence to Unimak Island on the western end of the Alaska peninsula. The next stop will be Kamchatka, whence the journey will be up the Siberian coast and, when the weather permits, through the Behring Straits to the Arctic coast near the mouth of the Kolima River, where collections will be made.

THE NEW ALLEGHENY FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION

THE choice of Philadelphia as headquarters for the Allegheny Forest Experiment Station of the forest

service, United States Department of Agriculture, has been announced by Secretary of Agriculture William M. Jardine. The headquarters of the station are being established in cooperation with the University of Pennsylvania, and offices will be furnished by the university, under an agreement signed by Provost J. H. Penniman, of the university, and Colonel W. B. Greeley, chief of the U. S. Forest Service. Secretary Jardine made the following statement:

Selection of headquarters for the Allegheny Station marks the beginning of active work on the part of a new forest research unit of the Department of Agriculture. Although Philadelphia has been chosen as headquarters because of its central location and the stimulus to our work resulting from cooperation with a scientific institution of international repute, the field work of the station will be conducted at various centers in the States of Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. In establishing such centers of field work, or branch stations, we have the advantage of cordial offers of cooperation from a number of organizations and educational institutions, prominent among them being the state agricultural colleges.

The forest experiment station will be interested in nearly every phase of timber-growing, such as thinning and similar measures for stimulating growth, reforestation by natural methods as well as by planting, rate of growth of tree species, and protection of the forest against its many enemies. The station is fortunate in starting its work in a territory where the states have done exceptionally good work in forestry. The forest services of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland have been at work for years, and although the greater part of their effort has necessarily been devoted to fire protection, the management of state forests, and similar matters outside of the field of forest research, they have made substantial progress in this field as well.

Some idea of the extent of the forest problems in this territory may be gained from a comparison of the lumber production and consumption of the four states concerned. A combined production of about 400,000,000 board feet is scarcely one eighth of the combined consumption. Yet there are in these four states over 18,000,000 acres of forest land which once bore as fine a forest of hardwoods, white pine, and hemlock as grew anywhere in the United States. The original forest has been practically all cut to meet the demands for wood of manufacturing, mining and agricultural industries. Forest replacement on hundreds of thousands of acres has been very inadequate, because of close cutting and fires. The scrub oak lands of Pennsylvania, and the ragged pine stands of southern New Jersey, to mention two outstanding examples only, are a challenge to the skill of the forester. Only painstaking study can give us the basis for the rehabilitation of such forests.

The staff of the experiment station will consist of seven persons at the start. Those appointed to date consist of R. D. Forbes, director, formerly director of the Southern Forest Experiment Station at New Or-

leans; O. M. Wood, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; A. F. Hough, of Washington, D. C.; L. G. Schnur, of Erie, Pennsylvania, and Miss C. E. Skamser, of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

THE LONG ISLAND BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

At the annual meeting of the board of directors of the Long Island Biological Association, held on December 13, the following gifts were reported, applicable to the Biological Laboratory at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island. About \$15,000 have been received in contributions for research and current expenses during the year. In addition the treasurer announced a bequest of \$5,000 from the late Dr. Walter B. James. Other special gifts, above the amount raised for current work, include \$1,000 from Colonel T. S. Williams, \$250 from Colonel Henry L. Stimson, \$200 from Dr. C. B. Davenport, and \$200 from Mr. Russell C. Leffingwell, all for the recently constructed physiological laboratory. Mr. Walter Jennings and Mr. William J. Matheson made special gifts of \$750 each, and Mr. Mortimer L. Schiff, of \$400 for equipment for mammalian research. The Wawepeex Society contributed \$500 additional toward the renovation of Hooper Hall. Mr. Arthur W. Page donated subscriptions to scientific journals, and the estate of Mary E. Jones gave the use of a building. The association has a number of building lots available for sale to biologists working at the laboratory. A form of sale, similar to the forms in use at other institutions, was accepted by the board. The treasurer reported that the end of the fiscal year found the association free from loans or other financial encumbrances. A budget of \$44,870 was voted for 1928.

Announcement was made of a gift of \$12,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Acosta Nichols, of Oyster Bay. This gift is applicable toward the construction of a new laboratory for biological research. It will be known as the George Lane Nichols memorial, in memory of George Lane Nichols who was for two years a member of the nature study classes for children given under the auspices of the Biological Laboratory. The new research laboratory will be located near the recently finished physiological laboratory. The architecture will be that of the Long Island colonial type, including a main building about 50 by 25 feet, two stories high, and two ells each about 15 by 20 feet. Each room will be equipped with running fresh water and sea-water, gas and electricity, while all of the rooms on the first floor will have work tables capping solid concrete columns for use in research in which vibration and jar should be reduced to a minimum.

With the completion of this building late in the spring, the floor space available for biological work at the laboratory will have been more than doubled in three years. This increase has been made necessary by the growing realization on the part of experimental biologists of the ease with which material for research may be procured at Cold Spring Harbor. This is particularly true of *Fundulus* and other marine forms. The addition of another operating room and another animal room in the new building will also allow an increase in mammalian research.

At the same time living accommodations are being increased through the renovation of a large house purchased last year, and the purchase, upon very favorable terms, of another house from Mrs. Alethea Stewart, widow of Mr. John H. J. Stewart, a member of the board of directors for many years.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE American Association for the Advancement of Science meets this week in Nashville, under the presidency of Professor Arthur A. Noyes, of the California Institute of Technology. Preliminary announcement of the programs of the fifteen sections and the associated societies will be found in the issue of SCIENCE for December 2. Dr. L. H. Bailey, retiring president of the association, is recovering from a surgical operation and is unable to be present at the Nashville meeting. He has not found it possible to prepare an address.

DR. SAMUEL WILSON PARR, professor emeritus of industrial chemistry in the University of Illinois, has been elected president of the American Chemical Society for 1928, succeeding Dr. George D. Rosengarten, of Philadelphia.

RUDOLPH F. SCHUCHARDT, electrical engineer at the Commonwealth Edison Company, Chicago, has been nominated for president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers for the term beginning August 1, 1928.

THE Langley medal for aerodromics was presented to Colonel Charles Lindbergh at the annual meeting of the board of regents of the Smithsonian Institution on December 8. At the same time Colonel Lindbergh announced that the backers of the *Spirit of St. Louis* had met recently in St. Louis and had decided that the plane should ultimately be given to the Smithsonian Institution.

DR. WILLIAM J. MAYO, Rochester, Minnesota, was made commander of the Royal Order of the North Star by King Gustav of Sweden on November 28.