

# SCIENCE

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## INTERRUPTION OF CENTRAL ASIATIC EXPLORATION BY THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

By Dr. HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

It will be a matter of very great regret to all members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and of the allied societies, to learn of the enforced interruption by the "Cultural Society" of Peking of the explorations by the American Museum of Natural History in Central Asia.

Scientists and educators of America have taken a very keen interest in the advancement of science in China, both indirectly by the establishment of educational institutions and directly by scientific surveys, such as those of Professor Bailey Willis. We have also opened all our educational institutions, both in pure and applied science, in all parts of the country, to students coming from China. We have extended to them other facilities and hospitalities, as

well as financial aid, in many cases. In brief, it has been one of the dreams of our ever-hopeful and optimistic country to see China realize the full benefits of the "advancement of science."

It is one of the most regrettable incidents of recent times that the new Nationalistic spirit in China, in which we all rejoice, has been accompanied, and partly developed, by a spirit of anti-foreignism. This spirit is by no means confined to the political and economic sphere, but has also entered the intellectual and scientific sphere. The purely scientific and educational aims of other countries are misrepresented in the Chinese press, and popular opinion is inflamed against scientific exploration as hostile to the best interests of China. Striking examples of the working

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