

liant and invaluable studies hold an enviable place in entomological science in America, and the memorial will concretely bring the inspiration of his work to those who follow his path.

### THE PARC NATIONAL ALBERT IN THE BELGIAN CONGO

DR. HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN, president of the American Museum of Natural History, and Dr. John C. Merriam, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, have been appointed American members on the commission of the Parc National Albert, Belgian Congo. A correspondent writes:

The Parc National Albert, the first national park to be established in Africa, is a royal institution. The idea of establishing national parks in Belgian territory was first conceived by King Albert during his journey through the national parks of the United States in 1919. He recognized at once that similar Belgian parks should be located, not in the densely populated areas of the mother country, but in the vast wilderness of the Belgian Congo. This idea for the first time took definite shape after the proposition made by the late Carl Akeley, naturalist and explorer, who, following his expedition to the volcanic region of Northern Kivu in 1921, recommended that a sanctuary for gorillas be established there for the preservation of that rapidly disappearing species. This proposal was sanctioned by royal decree and the Parc National Albert was established in the eastern part of the Belgian Congo.

In November, 1926, Mr. Akeley and his wife, Mary L. Jobe Akeley, accompanied by Dr. J. M. Derscheid, the Belgian zoologist, returned to the Kivu District on the Akeley-Derscheid Mission. The purpose of this mission was to make a general scientific survey of the Parc National Albert and to make recommendations for a scientific research station therein.

It was on this expedition that Mr. Akeley died and was buried in the heart of the Gorilla Sanctuary. Following his death, Mrs. Akeley and Dr. Derscheid remained in the region continuing their investigations and in 1928 they made a formal report on the findings of the Akeley-Derscheid Mission which was presented with a plan of administration to His Majesty.

By Royal Decree, in June, 1929, King Albert established a plan of administration and enlarged the original area of the park to about 500,000 acres in the interest of scientific research. The decree prohibits under severe penalties the killing, capture or molestation of any wild animal within the area, including those which are considered dangerous. It is also prohibited to destroy or remove any tree or wild plant or to change in any way the aspect of the landscape. The sanctuary will be policed by Belgian colonial officers and no one will be allowed to enter without a special permit.

Many rare species of animals which have almost disappeared from other parts of the world are making their last stand in this section of Africa, and it is King Albert's purpose to preserve them so that scientists may study them in their natural and primitive surroundings.

Scientists recognize that the study of animals in their natural habitat is more useful than the study of captives or dead specimens in laboratories.

The appointment of Professor Osborn and Dr. Merriam to serve on the Parc National Albert Committee is particularly gratifying to those connected with the Parc because of their great interest in this project from its very beginning and because of their active support of genuine conservation movements throughout the world.

### THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

ON April 5, 7, 8 and 9, 1930, many of the world's engineers will meet in New York, Hoboken and Washington to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. The exercises will be non-technical in nature and will stress the humanistic side of engineering. They will be preeminently an exchange of greetings between nations through the medium of a series of papers presented by a prominent engineer from each of sixteen countries or geographical divisions of the world. These papers will develop the theme of what engineering has done for each author's country in a national sense and also for the advancement of world culture and civilization. These engineers will also endeavor to forecast the lines along which engineering may be expected to develop in the future, and to inform the convocation of some of the great engineering problems confronting their respective nations.

The program will be carried out in three parts. At New York, on April 5, the delegates will be conducted to the McGraw-Hill Company and will be entertained in the offices of the *American Machinist*. This portion of the program will commemorate the preliminary meeting of organization of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers held on February 16, 1880.

The second portion of the program will be held at Stevens Institute, Hoboken, N. J., where the organization meeting of the society was held on April 7, 1880. With the idea of depicting the history of the society and of engineering during the past fifty years and the society's future, a pageant will be enacted. This pageant will feature the life history of an individual called "Control," and will utilize the most modern inventions of engineering in tracing this allegorical conception.

The third part of the program, the main sessions, in which each of sixteen of the world's distinguished engineers will present a summary of his paper, will be held in Washington on April 7 and 8. Washington has been selected to accord with the national and international character of the celebration and the national and international scope of the society's future services to mankind.

Another function will be the Founders' Luncheon, also to take place in Washington on April 8. Follow-