THE MARSHALL FIELD ARCHEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION

AN expedition which will excavate ancient Maya sites and collect artifacts representing the highest of aboriginal American cultures, search an uninhabited and almost impenetrable forest region for hitherto uncovered Maya cities, and study the Indians of modern Maya tribes by living for a period among them, left Chicago on January 21 on behalf of Field Museum of Natural History. On January 23 the expedition sailed from New Orleans aboard the steamship *Coppename* for British Honduras and Guatemala, where operations are to be conducted, it was announced by Stephen C. Simms, director of the museum.

This is the third Marshall Field Archeological Expedition to British Honduras, and it is to be led by J. Eric Thompson, assistant curator in charge of Central and South American archeology at the museum. Mr. Thompson led two previous expeditions sponsored by Mr. Marshall Field, as well as other exploring parties in this territory, and has written several books on ancient and modern Maya culture. The present expedition has a wider scope of operations than those which preceded it.

After landing at Belize, the expedition will proceed by boat up the coast to the mouth of the New River, and thence inland on the river to the head of navigation. Thence by mule pack train and on foot for many miles the journey will continue to the ancient city of Kax Unuic (Maya name meaning "Man of the Woods") which is situated on the frontier between British Honduras and Guatemala. There, with a party of Maya diggers recruited from among the native inhabitants, certain ruins will be excavated which promise to yield a rich collection of Maya antiquities for the museum, probably dating back to a time approximately coincident with the beginning of the Christian era or earlier.

When this work has been completed, the expedition will transfer its activities to the southeast Peten district of Guatemala, where reconnaissance work will be carried on through an extremely dense tropical forest region, uninhabited for many years, in search of the sites of ancient Maya cities known to exist but hitherto never definitely located. Work here will be entirely on foot, as the trails are too poor to take mules. The assistance of natives living on the edge of the forest, who are believed to have knowledge of the approximate location of the ruins, will be solicited. It is hoped that a number of old monuments bearing dates in Maya hieroglyphics will be found on the surface in the locality of the buried ruins. The explorations in this territory are a part of the expedition's work which is made possible by funds contributed by the Carnegie Institution of Washington, D. C.

Finally the expedition will pitch camp in the highlands of Guatemala to conduct ethnological work among certain modern Maya tribes. By living among these people and observing their ways of life it is expected that much new information will be obtained, and that it will be possible to trace many of the present customs back to the culture of the early Mayas. The expedition will be in the field probably about six or seven months.

THE AZTEC RUINS NATIONAL MONUMENT

PREHISTORIC Indian ruins of the pueblo type have been added to the Aztec Ruins National Monument, New Mexico, by the recent proclamation of President Hoover adding over eight acres to the reservation. The total area of the monument is now approximately 26 acres.

Two tracts of land comprise the addition. One, embracing 1.8 acres, was owned by the American Museum of Natural History, and donated by it to the government. It was through the generosity of one of the museum trustees, Mr. Archer M. Huntington, that the original area of the monument, amounting to 4.6 acres, was presented to the United States for monument purposes.

Later, in 1928, the Museum of Natural History donated an additional area of 12.6 acres which was added to the monument. Long before the establishment of the monument, the American Museum had conducted extensive archeological explorations in the area under the direction of Dr. Earl H. Morris, who was instrumental in obtaining scientific recognition of the value of its prehistoric ruins.

The other tract of land, containing about seven acres, was purchased by the government through the cooperation of W. T. Grant, of New York City, who donated $750, or half the purchase price, to the National Park Service for this purpose. The remainder of the cost was borne by the government appropriation, which provides for the acquisition of private lands in connection with national parks, provided half the cost is contributed from private sources.

The main feature of the Aztec Ruins National Monument is a large E-shaped pueblo structure containing approximately 500 rooms. The first floor of this structure is standing and in 24 of the rooms original ceilings are intact. In many places the walls of second-story rooms are standing, and in some cases also parts of third-story rooms. The ceilings, where in place, are supported by large beams, cut and dressed with stone tools. They are exhibits of work done in the Stone Age, while the sandstone walls, reasonably

plumb and with dressed faces, take high rank as examples of prehistoric masonry.

A museum collection has been installed in six of the excavated rooms in the old building. The nucleus of the material in it is a loan from the American Museum of Natural History. In addition, several hundred specimens have been donated by local people.

THE NEW YORK STATE FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

THE New York State Forest Research Institute, as a division of the work of the New York State College of Forestry, was established by action of the board of trustees at a meeting held in December. The objective in the establishment of the institute is to give the work in forest research now carried on by the college in different sections of the state a definite entity and more effective direction.

Research in forestry in New York is authorized under the charter given the college by the legislature of the state. The board of trustees during the past eighteen years have, in carrying out the obligations of the charter, set up special divisions of the college, such as the State Ranger School at Wanakena, the Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experiment Station and various other experiment stations.

The purpose of the trustees in establishing, at this time, the State Forest Research Institute is to so coordinate forest research as now carried on by and through the college that the results may be applied in a more practical way to the practice of forestry in the state, but particularly in private and public reforestation which is now being done on a large and aggressive scale.

The plan for the Research Institute was presented to the board of trustees by Dean Hugh P. Baker, of the college. The institute will bring into more effective direction and cooperation several college agencies now operating somewhat independently. The program of the institute will be worked out by and through the college faculty. Mr. Clifford H. Foster, director of the Pack Demonstration Forest near Warrensburg, New York, is to be acting director of the institute.

Forest research is now being done on the Ranger School Forest of 2,300 acres at Wanakena near Cranberry Lake in the western Adirondacks; at the Pack Demonstration Forest of 2,400 acres near Warrensburg, New York; at the State Forest Experiment Station in Syracuse; on the lands owned by the college near Salamanca in Cattaraugus County, and by other divisions of the college. All these activities will be coordinated and directed under a single head.

That the state-wide reforestation program now in progress under the direction of the Conservation Department might be definitely assisted by results secured from centralized forest research was indicated by Dean Baker in presenting the plan to the trustees. It is, therefore, important to have this particular phase of forestry in New York given a definite entity and centralized at the institution whose charter from the state obligates it to carry on such work. The centralization of this endeavor at the College of Forestry at Syracuse should result in more comprehensive forest research than formerly, particularly as this work is now being carried on under appropriations supplied by the state for forest investigations. In the aggregate a considerable sum of money is being devoted to forest research by the state, but on account of the unrelated direction of this work there has been some overlapping and duplication.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ILLUMINATION

THE International Congress on Illumination will be held in Great Britain from September 2 to September 19, inclusive. It will bring together scientific men and engineers from the leading countries of the world and will provide for the exchange of scientific data and other information relating to the more important phases of lighting practice. Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States are represented on the International Commission on Illumination.

The technical sessions of the congress will be held in several cities, thus interspersing travel with the study of lighting problems. Registration for the congress will take place in London on the first three days of September, during which time a reception will be held and visits made to places of technical interest, according to the Hon. Secretary of the Congress, Col. C. H. S. Evans, of the British Illuminating Engineering Society. The first session will be held on September 4 in Glasgow. Meetings and visits to points of interest will follow in Edinburgh on September 6, 7 and 8; Sheffield, September 9 and 10; Birmingham, September 11 and 12, while on September 13 a tour will be made from Birmingham to Cambridge. The various technical meetings and plenary session of the International Commission on Illumination will be held at Trinity College, Cambridge, from September 14 to 19, inclusive.

The dates have been chosen to enable the delegates to attend the three-day celebration in London of the Faraday Centennial, immediately following the congress. The centennial includes a meeting of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and will be followed in turn by the annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

The following topics have been designated places of