

an African hall of habitat groups, provided that a house for the collection were provided, it was hoped that some one might come forward with an endowment for much needed new buildings. But this did not happen. Mr. Simson then offered to the academy property worth \$150,000, but with the condition that income therefrom should be his during life. His proposition was accepted and the academy borrowed \$255,000 and erected a new unit to its museum buildings in Golden Gate Park in which it has provided space for the departments of entomology and ichthyology, for the administrative offices, and for the Simson African Hall.

In this hall, under the direction and general planning of Mr. Frank Tose, the chief of exhibits, the habitat groups are being installed. There will be ten large groups, thirteen intermediate small size groups and one very large waterhole group at the end of the hall. Of these groups, only one is now under glass. The backgrounds of three small groups have been painted and the backgrounds of five other large groups are nearing completion. The lighting of the habitat groups will all be artificial. Their backgrounds are domed so that all structural work is concealed. The observer gets no impression of a painted wall. Glass fronts will be inclined so that reflections of opposite light areas will be thrown well up above the horizon where they will interfere least with a view of the mounted specimens. In the lion group, the preparator of which throughout is Mr. Tose, sunlight effect by a transparency behind a rugged foreground is startling and exceptionally realistic, made to merge perfectly into the surrounding well-lighted surface painting.

It is notable in connection with this installation that there are no lighting fixtures in the hall. Abundant indirect light radiates from the habitat groups, all of which are artificially illuminated.

The hope was expressed that sponsors would be found for the individual habitat groups, as has been the case in the academy's hall of California wild life.

THE NEW COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

JOHN COLLIER has been nominated by President Roosevelt to succeed Charles J. Rhoads as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. In making the announcement Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, made the following statement:

John Collier will bring to the administration of the Bureau of Indian Affairs a wide knowledge of the subject based upon personal contacts and intensive study during the past several years. In my judgment, he is the best equipped man who has ever occupied that office.

Drafted by the government four years ago, Mr. Charles J. Rhoads has served as Commissioner of Indian Affairs

with great distinction. His uprightness of character, his ability and his single-hearted desire to serve have impressed all who have known him and realized the difficult task he undertook. It has been my pleasure to know Mr. Rhoads and the fine work he has done. Respecting his repeated request to be permitted to retire to private life, a conscientious effort has been made to find an outstanding and experienced man to take over his burdensome duties. Such a man I believe Mr. Collier to be.

I am deeply concerned about the welfare of the American Indians. I am persuaded that they are entitled to every consideration that the government can give them. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs ought to be the representative of the Indians themselves in the Department of the Interior. He should be their advocate, fighting for their interests and pleading their cause. Those who seek to encroach upon the rights and privileges of these original Americans are amply able to look out for themselves. Unless the government selects the right kind of a man as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the Indians themselves are, in effect, without a friend at court when substantial rights and interests of theirs are up for adjudication.

I have known John Collier for a number of years, and I have had opportunity to acquaint myself at first hand with the soundness of his views and his attitude toward the Indian question. In addition to safeguarding the property rights of the Indians, he will help them to help themselves toward a fuller and happier life. He will respect their customs, encourage them in their arts and assist them to maintain their rich and unique culture. He will try to interpret them sympathetically to their white fellow Americans. He realizes that on the purely material side, our American Indians possess possibilities in which the white people themselves may share, if those possibilities are realized and cultivated.

IN HONOR OF CHARLES E. MUNROE

At the subscription dinner at the recent Washington meeting of the American Chemical Society Dr. Charles E. Munroe, past president of the society and its only surviving charter member, was the guest of honor. In testimony of the esteem of the society, Dr. Munroe was presented with a jeweled emblem of the society and a purse. In presenting these tokens, Dr. Arthur B. Lamb, professor of chemistry and director of the laboratory at Harvard University, president of the society, said, in part:

The American Chemical Society was definitely organized on April 20, 1876, in New York City. Of the one hundred and thirty-three charter members at that time the sole survivor to-day is Charles Edward Munroe.

The first general meeting of the society was held in Newport, Rhode Island, on August 6 and 7, 1890, at the suggestion and under the chairmanship of Dr. Munroe, who was at that time a member of the technical staff of the United States Navy Torpedo Station at that city. Dr. Munroe was president of the society in 1898 to 1899 and is honorary chairman of this, the eighty-fifth general