

Islands, alive or dead (without scientific permits), into the United States, from which country has originated nearly all the non-scientific expeditions that have threatened the extinction of these valuable primitive species, the incentive, which has been the chief lure for most of them, has disappeared. Furthermore, we are informed that an effort is being made to have similar laws to Vandegrift's Tariff Act, passed by the other important countries of the world with special reference to promoting a world-wide enforcement of the recent London Convention for the Preservation of the Fauna and Flora of Africa.

Admitting that this decree of the Ecuadorian president is merely the first step, it is not the intention of the American Committee for the Protection of International Wild Life to relax its efforts, but on the contrary to cooperate as far as possible with the Ecuadorian executive in promoting a proper means of enforcing the provisions of this decree, and thereby permanently insure the preservation of the extraordinary and primitive species which are still left in the Galapagos Archipelago.²

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SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

THE SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

At the closing session of the recent meeting of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, held in Washington, D. C., the following officers were elected for a term of three years: For president and chairman of the executive committee, Dr. John C. Merriam, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington; for vice-president, Dr. Conde de Affonso Celso, Brazil, Dr. Roberto Andrade, Ecuador. Three honorary presidents were also elected: Dr. William Bowie, U. S. A., Dr. Rafael Belaunde, Peru, and Dr. Wallace W. Atwood, retiring president of the institute. The assembly expressed the desire to hold the next meeting, which should come in 1938, at Lima, Peru. The delegate from Peru expressed pleasure in the selection of his country, and before the day was over, through telegraphic communications, a very cordial invitation came from the Peruvian government to the Pan American Institute of Geography and History to hold their next general assembly at Lima.

The week from October 14 to 19, 1935, had been crowded with formal sessions, at which papers were presented by delegates from several of the nineteen countries represented in the institute, with social engagements and with excursions to places of special interest in and about the national capital. The State Department of the United States Government served as host, and the Hon. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, gave the address of welcome on behalf of the government. Later in the week Mr. and Mrs. Hull tendered a reception at the Hotel Carleton to all delegates, and provided a very delightful entertainment. The National Geographic Society invited the delegates to their home, where they enjoyed a premier showing of the motion pictures taken by Bradford Washburn on his recent expedition, conducted under the auspices of the society, in Alaska. Following the lecture the dele-

gates enjoyed the very generous hospitality of President and Mrs. Grosvenor and other officers of the National Geographic Society. The Carnegie Institution of Washington arranged special exhibits and illustrated papers for a meeting held at their headquarters during one of the evenings of the assembly week and entertained the delegates most generously. His Excellency, the Ambassador from Mexico to the United States, invited the entire party to the Mexican Embassy.

At the first regular session held in the Hall of the Americas at the home of the Pan American Union, Dr. Pedro C. Sanchez, director of the institute, presented his report of the work of the organization since the first general assembly was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1932.

Among the many notable papers presented in various sessions were: "The Development of Maya Research," by Dr. A. V. Kidder; "The Agricultural Mayans," by Dr. Rollin S. Atwood; "Bolivar, Man of Peace—The Beginning of International Cooperation in America," by Dr. Enrique Finot; "Geography and History Among the Sciences," by Dr. John C. Merriam; "The Historical Meaning of Monte Alban as Indicated by the Explorations of 1932–1935," by Dr. Alfonso Caso; "The Redistribution of Population," by Dr. L. C. Gray; "Early Economic Crises in Cuba and Their Relation with United States Commerce," by Dr. Ramiro Guerra; "Economic Transformation of South America," by Dr. Clarence F. Jones. These and many

² Recently the Liberal Party has come into power in Ecuador and His Excellency Doctor Antonio Pons is now acting President of the Republic. Word has been received that the Liberal Party is actively promoting a movement for the protection of the resources of the Galapagos Islands and is interested in saving its wild life, which more than anything else has made the islands famous throughout the world. It is hoped that the next step will now be taken, either in the form of legislation by the Congress or a supplementary decree of the president, to establish the islands as permanent sanctuaries and legalize a method for enforcement.

others are now being assembled for publication in the proceedings of the assembly.

The Pan American Institute of Geography and History is the outgrowth of a suggestion made in 1928 at a conference held in Havana when ways and means for promoting intellectual cooperation among the people in the western world were under consideration. Later it was decided that the headquarters and permanent home of this institute should be in Mexico City. The Mexican government has provided an excellent building where offices, drafting rooms, library and private studies are available. During the years that have passed since its organization, the institute has conducted many important investigations. New maps have been published and a number of scientific monographs have been issued. Other maps are now under construction and archeological investigations are in progress. Through the generosity of the Mexican government and the cooperation of a number of the American republics, headquarters have now been established where scholars interested in geographical or historical research in the Americas will be given every possible assistance.

The Pan American Institute of Geography and History differs from most international organizations in that it is established for the active promotion of and participation in research.

Arrangements for the recent assembly held in Washington were made by an organizing committee, appointed by the State Department: Dr. Wallace W.

Atwood, *chairman*; Col. Claude H. Birdseye; Major William Bowie; Dr. A. V. Kidder; Dr. Waldo S. Leland; Mr. Hunter Miller; Mr. Richard Southgate. The President of the United States has furthermore appointed a National Committee to cooperate with the Pan American Institute of Geography and History. That committee is organized as follows: Dr. Wallace W. Atwood, *chairman*; Colonel Claude H. Birdseye, *vice-chairman for geography*; Dr. Clarence H. Haring, *vice-chairman for history*; Dr. A. S. Aiton; Dr. Harlan H. Barrows; Dr. S. W. Boggs; Dr. Herbert E. Bolton; Major William Bowie; Dr. Charles F. Brooks; Colonel Frederic A. Delano; Dr. Nevin M. Fenneman; Dr. Gilbert H. Grosvenor; Dr. C. W. Hackett; Dr. Ellsworth Huntington; Dr. Douglas Johnson; Dr. A. V. Kidder; Dr. Waldo S. Leland; Dr. Irving A. Leonard; Colonel Lawrence Martin; Dr. John C. Merriam; Mr. Hunter Miller; Dr. Parker T. Moon; Dr. Dana G. Munro; Dr. Robert C. Murphy; Dr. Lowell J. Ragatz; Dr. J. Fred Rippey; Dr. James A. Robertson; Dr. W. S. Robertson; Dr. Carl O. Sauer; Dr. France V. Scholes; Dr. Alfred M. Tozzer; Dr. Frank E. Williams.

Dr. Pedro C. Sanchez, the director, and Mr. Octavio Bustamante, the assistant director, continue to have immediate charge of the activities of the institute. Their offices are at the headquarters of the institute in Mexico City.

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REPORTS

PROPOSAL OF A PUBLIC MUSEUM OF SCIENCE ERECTED IN ST. LOUIS AS A MONUMENT TO THOMAS JEFFERSON¹

In 1903 preparations were being completed for a great exposition to be held in St. Louis in celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase and in honor of the memory of Thomas Jefferson. The "World's Fair" presented in wonderful exhibits the progress of nations in agriculture, industry, science and art. It was an educational institution on an immense scale, teaching by the practical objective method the throngs of people who attended. The exposition was maintained for eighteen months, then its costly collections were removed, the buildings, many of them beautiful examples of the architect's genius, were torn down and the World's Fair, which enlightened and inspired its visitors, became for them a fascinating memory to recall and to recount to another generation.

¹ Adopted by the council of the Academy of Science of St. Louis, October 3, 1935.

And now, in the present year, another opportunity presents itself to commemorate the author of the Louisiana Purchase, by the recommendation of the Federal Government and the promise of a generous sum of money to erect a permanent monument to Thomas Jefferson in St. Louis. On September 10, 1935, the city took its first step toward the realization of the idea, by voting a bond issue of \$7,500,000 for the purchase of the site on the Mississippi water front, as stipulated in the government's plan.

The government's recommendation does not name or suggest the kind of monument to be erected, and that important item is left to be determined by the presentation of ideas to be carried into plans for construction. In the conviction that the erection of a permanent monument is a settled thing, and imbued with the feeling that a public science museum would be an appropriate memorial, deserving of consideration, the following argument is submitted in its favor.

As far as possible the monument should reflect Jefferson's character and interests and indicate some of his achievements. As to the last, the building of the