

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

ARCHEOLOGICAL WORK OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA FOR 1938

THE field season of the Archeological Survey of the University of Nebraska was drawn to a close the first part of December. Through the cooperation of the Works Progress Administration work was conducted on a much larger scale than previously.

Three parties were in the field. One party, at O'Neill, excavated a group of eleven mounds containing both cremated and bundle burials, with pottery of the "Woodland" type and stemmed projectile points. After completing the work at O'Neill the party moved to a site south of Lynch, at the mouth of Redbird Creek, a tributary of the Niobrara. The site consisted of house pits, of the circular type, with pottery and artifacts almost identical to those found in a previous year at a historic Ponca village near Verdel. One unique characteristic of the pottery is tempering of burned and crushed bone. A preliminary report on Ponca archeology will be available next spring.

Another party worked at Stanton, near the Elkhorn River. This site consisted of circular house pits with artifacts similar to those of the Oneota culture and a profuse amount of European trade goods. No documentation in reference to this site has yet been found. We request the aid of experts to identify and date trade beads, porcelain ware, glass bottles and gun parts found in this site. After completion of this site the party worked in one of the many nearby Upper Republican sites.

A third party, at Ponca, first excavated a new focus of the Nebraska culture, and then moved to a "Woodland" site in the same locality. The site was in an old terrace remnant and consisted of three distinct culture strata separated by 32" and 24", respectively, of sterile soil. While the pottery of all the strata was of the "Woodland" type it showed a distinct evolution from a thick, crude ware at the bottom, to a fine, thin and well-finished ware at the top. The day that the project was closed a fourth stratum was located. Work on this important site will be continued next year.

EARL H. BELL

NATIONAL PARKS

IN connection with the proposal to make the Kings River Canyon of California a national park, Secretary of the Interior Ickes has made public a statement in which it is recommended that Congress establish and set standards for wilderness national parks, in which roads would be limited by law and from which hotels would be excluded. The statement follows:

In 1935 I issued a statement of policy, declaring the purpose of the department, if this national park is author-

ized by Congress, to treat it as a primitive wilderness, limiting roads to the absolute minimum, maintaining foot and horse trails, excluding elaborate hotels, admitting all responsible packers, promoting good fishing, endeavoring to restore such nearly vanished wild life as the Sierra bighorn, the southern wolverine and the Pacific fisher; also to respect all valid existing equities, make every effort to conserve the watershed and recreational values of the region, and seek boundaries which will attain these ends without infringing upon the future development of the Kings River, for water storage, power and other uses, necessary to the welfare of the people of the San Joaquin Valley.

These principles of administration I wish to reaffirm. Since 1935, the Olympic National Park has been established and most of the lands have been acquired for the authorized Isle Royale National Park. Both will be maintained as wilderness areas. The problems of administration arising in connection therewith, and the questions arising in connection with the proposed Kings Canyon National Park, point to the need for a greater stability of policy than can be insured by administrative orders. Areas dedicated as wilderness national parks should be protected forever by provisions of law designed for that purpose, this in addition to the protection all national parks receive by law against commercial activities.

I shall welcome it if the Congress of the United States will define and set standards for wilderness national parks, as well as provide for wilderness areas to be proclaimed and similarly protected by law in other national parks. I suggest the following statutory safeguards for the Kings Canyon National Park if and when it is established:

1. Prohibit by law the building of any roads or truck trails in the park, except on the floor of the valley of the South Fork of the Kings River, below its junction with Roaring River.
2. Require that all buildings in the park shall be erected with government funds.
3. Exclude all public housing structures, except trail-side shelters, from the park, except in the valley of the South Fork of the Kings River below Roaring River, allowing in that area simple cabins which may be rented to visitors, but not leased.
4. Permit public and private packers to use the park without discrimination, subject to general regulations.
5. On account of the relative absence of automobile roads, provide that the existing Sequoia-General Grant automobile fee shall admit to Kings Canyon.

By these policies, written into law, the Kings River wilderness can be maintained forever in its present grandeur, and dedicated to recreational use consistent with its wilderness aspect.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

DR. WILLIAM J. ROBBINS, director of the New York Botanical Garden, in his first annual report calls spe-