

THE NEW HALL OF ETHNOLOGY OF THE MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

THE new Hall of Ethnology of the Museum of New Mexico at Santa Fe was opened for the summer on July 1. *Museum News* reports that until an appropriation can be obtained for an adequate heating system the building must be closed during the winter months. The exhibits in the main hall and the storage in the basement have been installed; work still remains to be done on the Hall of Man. In the main hall, or Hall of Ethnology, emphasis is placed on the cultural attainments of the Indians of the Southwest. Nine alcoves line the north, west and south walls with exhibits of jewelry, weaving, basketry, leather goods, ceremonial items, paintings, a room in a Pueblo dwelling, pottery and cradle boards. Each alcove has its own theme and an independent story to tell, so that no placards of direction are needed. The cases are designed so that they serve as boundaries of the alcoves. The lower section of each is a storage compartment; and this brings the base of the exhibition section to 29 inches above the floor. The display ranges to four feet above this height. Cases are 12 feet long, all without shelving. Installations are made from the front of the cases. Props of various shapes, made of celotex over wooden frames, are used to support specimens. It is planned to have Indian craftsmen working in the alcoves. In the space in the center of the hall is a relief map of New Mexico seven and a half feet square, constructed by WPA draftsmen under direction of the U. S. Forest Service, showing life zones, highways, routes of early explorers, towns, pueblos, monuments, parks, forests and other features. From this map extends a series of low cases with model groups illustrating the life of Indian groups that have been important in the history of the Southwest. At the west end of the hall is a set of four Navajo sand paintings, made in the orthodox fashion. In the basement Indian pottery is stored in a room on shelves so adjusted that the vessels could be arranged according to their place of manufacture and in the same relative position as actual Indian groups, beginning at the East with Taos and Picuris. The room is well lighted and provided with tables and chairs for those who wish to study the material. Basketry, textiles, leather, jewelry, ceremonial material and miscellaneous material are treated in a similar way. In the Hall of Man the basic principles of anthropology will be illustrated. There will be busts illustrating early man and racial groups; exhibits illustrating evolution of tools, art, etc.; and graphic material. The Hall of Ethnology is under the direction of Miss Bertha P. Dutton, with Ernest Halyvi, of Mishongnovi pueblo, in charge of the building for the season.

THE NEW YORK MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY AND THE HENRY R. TOWNE ENDOWMENT FUND

It is reported in the daily press that the trustees of the Henry R. Towne Endowment Fund have petitioned Surrogate James A. Foley for approval of their decision to discontinue payments of income to the Museum of Science and Industry and to distribute the remaining principal of \$1,630,010 in equal shares between the Museum of Natural History and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Mr. Towne, who was head of the Yale and Towne Manufacturing Company, died in 1924. He left his residuary estate in trust for the purpose of establishing a museum of peaceful arts. The Museum of Science and Industry was named income beneficiary and as such has received \$846,505 since the trust was established.

The trustees, John H. Towne, of Mount Kisco, N. Y., son of the decedent; Robert Struthers, Noroton, Conn., and the Bankers Trust Company, notified the income beneficiary on April 22 of their decision to discontinue payments to it and to distribute the principal, and the trustees have filed a final accounting, which they have asked the court to approve.

In his will Mr. Towne provided that

if the trustees, after having given due consideration to conditions, management and prospects of the museums, the executors and trustees, unanimously decided that in their judgment (and their judgment herein is to be final) it is inexpedient for them to make any further provisions of the museums or unwise to make any further advance, gift or disposition of the fund or its income, they might in their discretion pay over the principal in equal shares to the Metropolitan Museum and The Museum of Natural History.

The Museum of Science and Industry has filed an answer and cross-petition in which it is stated that the decision of the trustees to discontinue payments to it violates the intention of the testator and constitutes an abuse of discretion, and is arbitrary and capricious, void and illegal.

In its cross-petition it points out that in the last five years it had exhibited scientific and industrial works of the kind contemplated by the testator having an aggregate value in excess of \$3,000,000 to an average of more than 400,000 visitors a year.

The trustees in their report, which covers the period from November 26, 1929, to April 21, 1941, have accounted for a gross estate of \$3,594,432. The principal at the beginning of the accounting period was \$2,693,758. After payments to the income beneficiary, administration expenses and decreases, they had on hand on April 21 accounting a balance of \$1,-