

SCIENCE

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THE PACIFIC COAST MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

IN its sixty-seventh year the American Association for the Advancement of Science reached the Pacific coast after wandering in previous years to all the principal cities of the east and central west of the United States and Canada, on one occasion venturing as far west as Denver. The California meeting is thus memorable in itself as marking an epoch in the history of our association as well as for its coincidence with the superb Panama-Pacific Exposition of the practical, educational and artistic development of the world.

It is not too much to say that this meeting of the association was an event of real importance in the scientific development of our country. While the exposition is in a measure a summary of the world's progress in the arts and applied sciences from the time when the great westward migration began from Asia some 25,000 or 30,000 years ago, our association meeting was very wisely planned throughout to bear chiefly a Pacific-coast and Pacific-ocean character. This field in itself is a very large one, and it was broadened by including the relations which the Pacific region in general bears to other parts of the world.

All of the members, and especially those who had not visited the Pacific coast before, arrived with a keen spirit of interest in the scientific wonders of the great state of California, its past history, the records which its very able men of science have established in every branch, the problems which confront the present generation, and

last but not least in the work of the body of talented young men and women who are now entering science from the two great universities and other educational institutions of the state. In no other region is the outlook for the advancement of science more encouraging.

The admirable handbook "Nature and Science on the Pacific Coast," written in collaboration by thirty-one specialists, was quite widely distributed prior to as well as at the meeting and thoroughly prepared the members of the association for the general understanding of the geography, the history, the geology and physiography, the climate, the past and present animal and plant life, the economic and educational development of California. The preparation of this booklet was a felicitous idea and it developed into a most tasteful and interesting volume under the chairmanship of Professor John C. Merriam. Similarly Director George Otis Smith of the United States Geological Survey prepared for the westward journey of members of the association by projecting a series of historic and geologic guidebooks of the western United States, one for each of the great transcontinental railway routes. The first of these volumes, which is entitled "Part B, The Overland Route with a Side Trip to Yellowstone Park," written by Messrs. Lee, Stone, Gale and others of the survey, furnished a guide along the Union and Southern Pacific Railways from Omaha west. These several volumes can not be too highly praised; beside affording a clear introduction to the scientific aspects of the country en route they contain a great deal of information of permanent value.

We do not recall any previous meeting of the association for which such prolonged, intelligent and self-sacrificing attention has been devoted to preparation, to the scientific programs and to the scientific excur-

sions. The whole endeavor was worthy both of the memorable event which took the association to California and of the very high scientific standards which have been established in the state. This preparation also reflected the very cordial spirit of cooperation which now unites scientific men of all parts of the Pacific coast. Those of us from other states who were fortunate enough to be present at this admirably planned meeting can hardly find words to express our appreciation of the labors of the various committees, which were composed of many of the leading men and women of the Pacific coast states as well as of our eastern possessions in the Pacific, Hawaii and the Philippines.

Among the leaders during two years of almost unceasing preparation were the president of the association, Director W. W. Campbell of the Lick Observatory, who served as chairman of the executive committee as well as of the Pacific Coast committee, the latter committee including most of the prominent scientific men of the Pacific Coast states. Another very active member was Professor Merriam, paleontologist of the University of California, who ably cooperated with President Campbell for the general welfare of the association but especially in the arrangement of the programs of the Geological and Paleontological Societies. The newly elected president of Stanford University, Professor John C. Branner, served as the head of the committee on scientific program. Among the many ladies who took an active interest in the social features of the meeting may be mentioned Mrs. Phoebe Apperson Hearst, long a patroness of science on the Pacific coast, who took the title of honorary president of the general committee and gave a delightful afternoon reception at the Hacienda del Pozo de Verona near Pleasanton.

The scientific sessions were chiefly held in the University of California, the president and faculty uniting in cordial hospitality throughout the week. Half days and evenings were partly given to visits to the Exposition. The general evening reception in the California State Building was delightfully arranged. One of the very enjoyable features of the meeting was Stanford University Day, Wednesday, August sixth, during which Ex-president Jordan, President Branner and the faculty of the university acted as hosts at Palo Alto.

The excursions were admirably arranged, extending to every part of California, and it may be said that no other state is so crowded with scientific interest. In the presence of living volcanoes, living glaciers and great recent earthquakes one finds geologic history still being written. The state is absolutely unique also in many of the features of its present abounding animal and vegetable life, especially perhaps in its forest and desert floras, and is no less unique in many features of its coastal Pacific life.

The central subject of the natural history of California, of the Pacific coast, and of the Pacific ocean naturally dominated the meetings, especially those in geology, paleontology, seismology, botany, zoology and anthropology. Thus the programs of all of the sessions, which were throughout of exceptional interest, were chiefly devoted to what may be called the science of the coast, with a lesser amount of time assigned for general papers. For the public of San Francisco three evening public addresses, also on Pacific problems, were delivered by Professor Daly of Harvard, Professor Scott of Princeton and Professor Reinsch, U. S. Ambassador to China. The geologists and paleontologists united in a series of spirited discussions on the means of

determining the time relations of great events in the past history of the state of California and events in other parts of the United States and the Old World. These two societies seldom have had more important programs or a more valuable series of contributions than those presented by the leading geologists of California and by the invited geologists and paleontologists from the east. Especially noteworthy was the contribution on the correlation of the Triassic by James Perrin Smith of Stanford University. The Astronomical Society also had a full and influential meeting in joint session with Section A of the association, concluding with enjoyable excursions to the Lick Observatory and to the Mt. Wilson Observatory near Pasadena.

Taken altogether the entire program proved to be very stimulating to all those who came from other sections of the country. The broad conception of the original purposes of the association, which distinguishes our sister associations of Great Britain and the continent, was manifest throughout and rendered the Pacific Coast meeting one of the most notable and memorable in our history.

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING

THE opening session of the Pacific Coast meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of affiliated societies was held on Monday morning, August 2, in the Scottish Rite Auditorium, San Francisco. At this session the following addresses were given:

Address of welcome on behalf of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, William Henry Crocker, first vice-president of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition.

Address of welcome on behalf of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Benjamin Ide Wheeler, president of the University of California.