

maps were copyrighted. In view of this fact, I am extremely sorry for having committed a mistake of using Professor Schuchert's interesting and informative results without first consulting him on that matter,

and deeply apologize for hurting, though unwillingly, his feelings of ownership in that matter.

G. GAMOW

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SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

FIELD MUSEUM PALEONTOLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO HONDURAS

A PALEONTOLOGICAL expedition of Field Museum of Natural History worked in the Republic of Honduras from early November, 1941, until April, 1942. The personnel consisted of Paul O. McGrew as leader and Albert A. Potter, of the Nebraska State Teachers College, Chadron, Nebraska, as assistant. Señor Eliseo Carabantes was employed during most of the work and various other Honduran assistants were engaged from time to time.

The object of the expedition was to collect fossil mammals. Particular interest in fossils from Honduras arises from the geographic position of that country. Practically nothing is known of fossils from tropical America, and answers to several perplexing paleontological problems might be gained from study of fossils from that region. Data bearing on the accurate dating of the emergence of the Panamanian land bridge, on the dating of the Tehuantepec marine portal, on the still-existing environmental barrier between the two continents of the Western Hemisphere, on the value of homotaxis in correlation between deposits in northern and southern latitudes and on other problems might well be expected.

Three months were spent in the early Pliocene deposits of the Departamento de Gracias. These beds were worked briefly in 1937-38 by an expedition from the University of Chicago and previously reported upon.¹ Here a large collection of the dwarfed horse, *Pliohippus hondurensis*, was obtained. In addition fossils of dog, mastodon, rhinoceros, deer, camel and

some reptiles were collected. All forms found were definitely of northern origin.

In the Departamento de Copan a deposit was discovered which produced an interesting and beautifully preserved collection of late Pleistocene mammals. This site was successfully quarried. Among the specimens collected were *Toxodon*, *Glyptodon* (?) and *Megatherium* as immigrants from South America, and *Equus*, *Camelops* (?) and *Felis concolor* of North American origin. Of *Megatherium* an essentially complete skeleton was obtained. The *Toxodon* is of particular interest, as it is the most northern occurrence of this group of South American mammals so far recorded. In 1886 Leidy reported a lower molar and a broken incisor from Nicaragua. Temporary conditions made it impossible to complete excavation in this Pleistocene quarry, but it is fervently hoped that in the not-too-distant future work there may be resumed.

Because of the uncertainty of water transportation, practically all the material was stored in Guatemala, where it will probably have to remain until the termination of the war. Consequently, its study and the determination of its bearing on the above-mentioned problems will necessarily be delayed. It may be stated, however, that the Pliocene fauna supports the conclusions previously reported and that the Pleistocene fauna should throw new light on our problems.

Sincere thanks are due to the government and people of Honduras, who cooperated in every possible way to make the expedition a success.

PAUL O. MCGREW

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

QUOTATIONS

SOME SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS OF THE EXPERIMENT STATIONS IN 1941

THE preparation of the annual report to Congress by the Office of Experiment Stations on the work and expenditures of the agricultural experiment stations for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1941, has brought together the usual progress reports of the more than 3,000 federal grant projects active at the stations during that year. It is now expected that in due course these activities will be discussed in that report, but on an abbreviated basis in conformity with the

¹E. C. Olson and P. O. McGrew, *Bull. G.S.A.*, 52: 1219-1244, 1941.

national need and policy to conserve both paper and the printing funds. In the meantime the opportunity is being availed of to place on record brief statements of a few of the more significant accomplishments. These examples have been selected as representative of the subject matter fields covered in station research and the varied agricultural conditions and problems of the states and territories. They are based on statements as to the work done and the progress made under each active federal project, prepared by project leaders and made available to the office by the station directors. It needs scarcely be emphasized that they