

Amateur Recognized

ANNOUNCEMENT has just been made by the University of Chicago that George Langford of Joliet has been appointed Research Associate in the department of anthropology. This is done in recognition of the work Mr. Langford has accomplished in Illinois archaeology.

In spite of the exacting demands made upon his time and energy by his position as superintendent of a large steel mill at Joliet, Mr. Langford has carried on extensive and systematic excavations in the Indian mounds of the Joliet district, and has accumulated one of the best scientific collections from the upper Mississippi valley. In the Fisher mounds near Shanahan he found three superimposed Indian cultures, terminating in a layer that contained articles of French colonial manufacture in its upper portion, thus linking the mound-builders with historic times. Other excavations which he has conducted throw further light on the sequence of ancient Indian cultures in the Illinois valley, which has always formed the main highway between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi river.

Recently Mr. Langford presented his entire collection of mound-builder cultural and skeletal remains to the University of Chicago, where it is now being installed for exhibition and study.

"Old grads" of Yale remember George Langford as the best man who ever pulled an oar for their university, and as an outstanding performer on the gridiron in the days when football was football.

Archaeology
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Volcano Watchers—Continued

of Italian watchers of the dragon has included L. Palmieri, who observed the great eruption of 1872; R. V. Matteucci, witness of the eruption of 1906; Giuseppe Mercalli, a scholarly priest; and the present incumbent, Alesandro Malladra.

The claim of volcanologists that theirs is a safe occupation receives paradoxical support in the tragic but ironic end which befell Father Mercalli, the only one of the group who did not die a natural death. After defying for years the unweighable thousands of tons seething fire in his volcano, he was burned to death in his own study, by a pint of oil from an overturned lamp!

His successor, Signor Malladra, was an active member of the observatory staff at the time of his chief's tragic death, and remained as acting director until two years ago, when he was given full charge of the work. Dr. Henry Washington, a leading American volcanologist, knows Signor Malladra well and has spent many hours climbing the shifting scoria slopes of Vesuvius with him.

The most recent recruits to the task of keeping vigil over dragons have been the Dutch. Uncle Sam owns a lot of volcanoes, but most of them, like those in Alaska, are in uninhabited wilderness; so studying them is as "pure" a science as can be found in these days when even abstruse things like relativity are being put to practical use. But the volcanoes that are the unruly property of Her Gracious Majesty Queen Wilhelmina are located in one of the most densely populated and most richly productive regions in the world, and keeping watch over them is not only a matter of scientific interest but one of good hard guelders.

If you will look at a map of the Dutch East Indies, where the real wealth of Holland lies, you will see that Sumatra, Java, and the long line of smaller islands that trail off to the eastward, are really one continuous but partially submerged mountain range. The peaks that knot that range, like vertebrae in the backbone of an immense saurian skeleton, are almost all of them volcanoes, and there are many more volcanoes in Celebes, Dutch Borneo and other Dutch islands there in that corner between the Indian and Pacific oceans.

Hence the intense interest now

displayed by the government in the development of volcanology in Java. With headquarters at the town of Bandung, under the shadow of three large volcanoes, the volcanological service has established a chain of seven observatories to watch seven other fire-mountains. Their names sometimes ring like the silver-bronze gongs of a Javanese orchestra, sometimes crash harshly like the dragon-voices of the mountains; Kawah Kamodjang, Kawah Idjen, Kelut, Merapi, Papandajan, Tankuban Prahoe, Krakatau.

Krakatau is a champion "bad volcano" of the East Indies. In 1883 this volcano simply blew itself and the small island on which it stood into bits, and snuffed out the lives of over 36,000 people. With the exception of the explosion of Tambora in the Sunda Islands in 1815, which killed 56,000, this was the worst eruption in history.

Papandajan, Kelut and Galunggung are other "bad actors" among Javanese volcanoes, each with death-lists running into the thousands chalked up against it, though each has had but one major eruption during historic time. Merapi is responsible for fewer deaths, but has had three fatal eruptions in a little over a century; it is regarded as potentially very dangerous.

So the watching of the dragon goes. The little group of modern Siegfrieds will increase as time goes on. It will increase rapidly where governments realize, as the Dutch have, that there is something economic as well as "just scientific" to this business of sitting on a crater and watching the lava boil, and counting the landslides that tumble into it, and going down and measuring infernal temperatures and catching flasks of mephitic gases for analysis. In the end, we may be able to predict volcanic eruptions as we now predict storms and as we hope before long to predict earthquakes.

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The Pennsylvania State College has developed a correspondence course in "Elements of Mechanical Flight."

A Dane who is serving a term for larceny in a New York State prison has almost completed a Cornell correspondence course in poultry breeding, his lowest mark on a lesson being 99.