

the House. In fact the House Foreign Affairs Committee never reported the resolution back to the House. Congress seemed disposed and still seems to be inclined towards waiting to see what other countries of the world want to do about it, before taking any decisive action.

The League of Nations conference on the reformed calendar occurs in October, 1931. The United States will be asked to send a delegate. A calendar reform treaty may be drawn up for submission

to the various governments, and if this is done, a date for enactment of the new calendar will be set in the protocol.

While it cannot be said that the United States has definitely committed itself as yet, certainly not legislatively at any rate, the National Committee on Calendar Reform in this country feels that sufficient evidence has been given that the United States welcomes the adoption of a new 13 month fixed calendar and is proceeding accordingly.

*Science News Letter, January 31, 1931*

## GEOLOGY

## Recent Rock Fall a Trifling Incident in Niagara's History

There Were Once Five Falls and in the Future the Sheer Drop Will Wear Away to a Series of Cataracts

NIAGARA created a nation-wide sensation by staging a bit of a rock-slide and aroused all over again the discussion of various projects for "saving" the falls from the fate their natural erosion may bring them. But it's all a very old story to Niagara.

Some time between twenty-five and fifty thousand years ago, when the Ice Age on this continent was just ending and the Great Lakes, as we know them today, were still young, there were five Niagaras instead of only one.

The remains of these great falls have been found by geologists at a point quite remote from their single surviving sister. They thundered for centuries, with no human ear to hear them, in the region where Syracuse now stands. They were left high and dry when the level of the upper great lakes fell, and all the outlet-water was concentrated in a single river, the modern Niagara.

When the modern falls first started running they were about seven miles down-river from their present position. They have been backing up ever since, so that the recent rock fall is only a trifling incident in the whole history of the carving of the Niagara gorge.

The existence of Niagara Falls depends on the presence of a sheet of hard limestone overlying a thick bed of less resistant sandstones and shale. The churning water at the bottom of the falls, filled with broken fragments of hard rock, carves away the softer material from under the over-hanging edge whence the waters leap. From time to time pieces of the limestone break

off. Usually they are small; the recent slide was an exception. Thus the falls keep young by constantly peeling off bits of their face.

The history of the falls has been the same throughout their millenia of life up to the present. There will come a time, however, when there will be no more Niagara as we know it today, but a tumultuous series of cataracts dashing through tumbled gigantic blocks of stone.

This is because the capstone which forms the river-bed at Niagara dips slightly toward the south. Several miles upstream it disappears under a stratum of softer rock, which is not capable of forming a resistant rimrock for the river to jump from. When the river reaches this place, it will scour down through the soft stuff until it finds the limestone, break this up in great pieces and thereafter flow foaming and spouting through the obstacles it will thus pile up for itself.

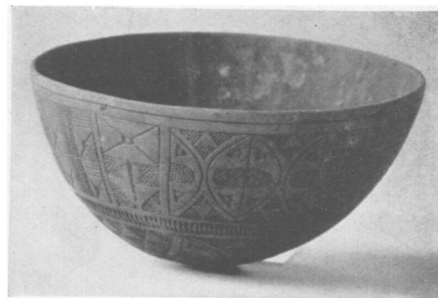
But the generation that will see this still waits for a wholly undeterminable future.

*Science News Letter, January 31, 1931*

## ARCHAEOLOGY

## Governor of Porto Rico Seeks Aid of Ancient Art

THE office of Gov. Theodore Roosevelt of Porto Rico has requested from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington information about old native art designs of the West Indies. It is Gov-



A MODEL FOR MODERNS

*An ancient bowl carved with a unique design by prehistoric inhabitants of the West Indies. Governor Roosevelt would revive these forgotten designs for use in the beautiful embroideries and textiles made by modern craftworkers of Porto Rico.*

ernor Roosevelt's hope that the art designs used by prehistoric inhabitants of the land may be revived and applied in the beautiful embroideries and textiles made by modern craftworkers.

H. W. Krieger, ethnologist of the Smithsonian Institution, said that the governor's request is being met by forwarding him a representative collection of designs from Indian tribes not only of the West Indies but also of Central and South America.

The ancient West Indian designs which would be best suited for application to textile arts are not on prehistoric objects, but may be found on the modern calabashes and gourds which the Indians use as dishes, Mr. Krieger said. On these the Indians still carve designs that were familiar to their forefathers many centuries ago.

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## ENTOMOLOGY

## Robber-Fly Masquerades In Bumble-Bee's Clothing

See Front Cover

THE villainous-looking hexapod that glares at you from the cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is as bad a citizen as he looks. He is a robber-fly, who should by rights be called an assassin-fly, for his practice is to pounce upon other insects in the air, pierce them with his sharp beak, and bear them away to his cannibal feasting-place.

The robber-fly is not only an assassin; he hides his deadly trade under a disguise borrowed from a formidably-armed but law-abiding member of a quite different insect family, the bumble-bee. Only a closer examination unmasks the cheat.

The photograph is by Cornelia Clarke.

*Science News Letter, January 31, 1931*