

weight is not an important factor. The difficulty lies in making a semi-automatic rifle that will weigh only eight and one-half pounds—the weight of the present army rifle. There are some semi-automatic hunting rifles, but these are

of relatively small power compared with the army rifle.

Semi-automatic rifles have been used to a limited extent by Mexico and Germany.

*Science News Letter, August 22, 1931*

EXPLORATION

## Scientist Protests Ban on Foreign Exploration in China

**A** VIGOROUS protest and warning that Chinese prohibition of British, French, Swedish and American paleontologic and archaeologic work in Central Asia is a "very serious setback to the cause of science and civilization" is issued by Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn, president of the American Museum of Natural History, in a statement in *Science*.

### Andrews Refused

In announcing that the Chinese Commission for the Preservation of Antiquities has just refused Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews' request for permission to make explorations next year in Mongolia, Dr. Osborn made public the letter of refusal which suggests that the American scientists content themselves with scientific work on specimens that are brought to Peiping by Chinese expeditions.

In addition to bringing to a stop the ten years' work by his museum, Dr. Osborn lists the following expeditions that have been prohibited or hampered:

Sven Hedin's Swedish expedition in Chinese Turkestan.

French Trans-Asiatic Expedition under Dr. Georges Haardt and P. Teilhard de Chardin.

British expedition under Sir Aurel Stein, driven out of Chinese Turkestan.

Dr. Osborn also charges the Chinese commission with instigating erroneous Chinese newspaper statements about foreign explorations, arousing hostile attitudes among the people and cultivating the idea that all foreigners are enemies.

Looting of Chinese antiquities by the American Museum expedition was vigorously denied by Dr. Osborn. Aside from Neolithic flints which are still to be found strewn over the surface of the Gobi desert in millions, not a single specimen of any historical or archaeological value has ever been

taken from China or Mongolia by the expedition. The great majority of the fossils obtained have come from Outer Mongolia over which China relinquished control before the Museum's explorations began. Dr. Osborn contends that the Central Asiatic Expedition "has always paid its way," spending much money in China, in addition to benefiting the country culturally.

"The matter would not be so serious if there were any possibility or prospect of the present ability of the Chinese to carry out this work themselves," said Dr. Osborn. "They have neither the scholarship nor the financial means of doing so beyond the confines of old China.

"The American Museum geologic, paleontologic and stratigraphic and topographic work in Mongolia and the great publications issuing therefrom have been possible only because the party was composed of a body of field experts such as has never been brought together before in the history of these branches of science, under a leader who has shown unprecedented ability to organize a series of expeditions into an absolutely unknown desert where all previous explorers had failed either to make discoveries or obtain substantial results.

### Backward Nation

"This arrest of Central Asiatic exploration and research will cause worldwide disappointment and regret, especially among those who have been sincerely desirous of soundly establishing these great branches of science in China. The Commission for the Preservation of Antiquities must, therefore, bear a heavy weight of responsibility for the retardation and finally for the arrest of scientific researches and explorations in Central Asia, whereby China is placed in the column of backward, reactionary and non-progressive nations."

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### CHEERFUL?

*If you're not you ought to be when you look at this little two-inch high perfume pot of the seventh century B. C. At least that is what Dr. Edith H. Dohan, of the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, says. Reactions to art objects have been observed in the feelings of visitors toward two recent acquisitions of the University Museum. One object is the snug helmet-headed vase pictured above; it evokes a light-hearted and cheerful mood. The other, about nine inches high and made two centuries later, has a much less gay effect than that of the little Rhodian pot. The difference in size may account for the reactions; the smaller object is more "cozy in the hand."*

ENTOMOLOGY

## Sod Web-Worms Menace Golf Courses In Ohio

**L**ARGE brown patches of dead grass on Ohio golf courses and lawns are not due to the extremely hot weather but a heavy attack by the sod web-worm, entomologists of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station have discovered.

Not a new insect, the half-inch long black worm has been encouraged by this year's good insect weather. It lays its eggs in lawn or turf grasses and the larvae hatch in two weeks.

The insect keeps away from clover and fresh green clover plants in the dead grass is a sign of its presence.

Arsenate of lead powder dusted on the grass and soaked in with water will control the pest.

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In the search for oil and gas, more than 20,000 wells are drilled annually.