

Dr. N. C. Nelson, curator of prehistoric archaeology at the American Museum, announced this new evidence for early Americans in an initialed note in the Museum's publication, *Natural History*. (May-June) Examining the Alaskan tools he found two kinds, consisting of small semi-conical flint cores and small endscrapers to be "identical in several respects with thousands of specimens found in the Gobi Desert by the Central Asiatic Expedition in 1925-1928."

"The specimens," continued Dr. Nelson, "furnish the first clear archaeological evidence we have of early migration to the American continent, apparent-

ly during the final or Azilian-Tardenoisian stage of the Paleolithic culture horizon possibly 7,000 to 10,000 B.C."

First of the Alaskan stone tools came to light when a posthole was dug on the campus of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines at Fairbanks, in 1933. Stimulated by this discovery relating to prehistoric man, Jack Dorsch, working under direction of Dr. C. E. Bunnell, College president, dug a trench across the campus last summer. His excavations revealed about 400 hammerstones, projectile points, rejected flakes, cores, and endscrapers, most of the ancient tools being fragmentary.

*Science News Letter, May 4, 1935*

GENERAL SCIENCE

## Dr. Frank R. Lillie Heads Both Academy and N. R. C.

### Science Aid to Government and People Pledged Anew By Biologist of Chicago and Woods Hole

See Front Cover

**D**OCTOR Frank R. Lillie was elected president of the National Academy of Sciences for a four-year term, an office considered the highest within the gift of American science. He is Canadian born and has been serving both as dean of the division of biological sciences at the University of Chicago and as president of the Woods Hole, Mass., Marine Biological Laboratory.

Dr. Lillie succeeds Dr. W. W. Campbell, astronomer and former president of the University of California.

Dr. Lillie was also elected to the chairmanship of the National Research Council. He is thus placed in a key position as a leader of American science. Heretofore the two positions have not been held by the same person and a coordination of the scientific activities of the academy and the council is expected to result from Dr. Lillie's election to both positions.

Science is pledged anew to serve the nation in a statement made by Dr. Lillie:

"The National Academy of Sciences established by President Lincoln under Congressional charter in 1863 stands for the world-wide advancement and promotion of science and for the application of its results to the industrial, social, educational and governmental activities of the American people. It knows no politics and it is at the service of the elected rep-

resentatives of the people. Through its National Research Council and the Science Advisory Board it maintains relations with all national scientific organizations and endeavors to focus the resources of their knowledge upon the problems that confront us."

The front cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER carries the picture of Dr. Lillie standing at the entrance of the National Academy building.

Youth was served in the elections of new members of the National Academy of Sciences. Outstanding on the list of new Academicians is Dr. Harold C. Urey, age 42 and last year's Nobel prizeman in chemistry for his discovery of "heavy water." He is professor of chemistry at Columbia University.

Even younger than Dr. Urey is a Harvard physicist, Dr. J. H. Van Vleck, one of the "boys" who has turned classic science upside down with brilliant new investigations in quantum mechanics. Dr. Van Vleck just escaped being a child of the present century; he was born in 1899.

Of the fourteen men elected, eight are under fifty years of age. Arranged by decades, two of the new members were born in the late 1860's, two during the 70's, eight in the 80's and two in the 90's.

So far as professional type is concerned, there was an even division between the so-called exact sciences of the physics-

chemistry group and natural sciences, with seven of the fourteen new members falling in either division.

The full list of new members follows: Dr. N. L. Bowen, Carnegie Institution of Washington, geologist; Dr. C. M. Child, University of Chicago, zoologist; Dr. G. E. Coghill, Wistar Institute, Philadelphia, chemist; Dr. James Ewing, Memorial Hospital, New York City, pathologist; Dr. M. L. Fernald, Gray Herbarium, Cambridge, Mass., botanist; Dr. Harvey Fletcher, Bell Telephone Laboratories, New York City, physicist; Dr. Ross Aiken Gortner, University of Minnesota, chemist; Dr. E. A. Hooten, Harvard University, anthropologist; Dr. J. C. Hunsaker, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, aerodynamist; Dr. Walter S. Hunter, Clark University, psychologist; Dr. Dunham Jackson, University of Minnesota, mathematician; Dr. Chester R. Longwell, Yale University, geologist; Dr. H. C. Urey, Columbia University, chemist; Dr. J. H. Van Vleck, Harvard University, physicist.

New Foreign Associates of the Academy are: Dr. J. S. Haldane, physiologist of Oxford University, England, and Dr. Jules Bordet, bacteriologist and director of Pasteur Institute, Brussels, Belgium.

Science's aid in the present war on crime was recognized by the National Academy in the award of its Public Welfare medal to August Vollmer, University of California expert in police administration and former Berkeley police chief. Illness prevented Prof. Vollmer's attendance at the presentation.

Dr. James P. Chapin of the American Museum of Natural History received the Daniel Giraud Elliot medal for his researches on Belgian Congo birds. In their absence, the Henry Draper medal for astronomy was conferred upon Dr. J. S. Plaskett, director of Canada's Dominion Astrophysical Observatory at Victoria, and the famous Agassiz medal for oceanography was awarded Prof. Haakon Rasberg Gran of Oslo.

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## Science Preserves an Ideal

"It is a matter for thankfulness that among the many sources of world distrust and jealousies, science preserves an ideal of purity, truthfulness and mutual good will toward all nations. Not only do cooperative international scientific projects flourish, but the publications of scientists are received at face value in all lands, even though they be politically at variance."—President Franklin D. Roosevelt in a letter of welcome to the National Academy of Sciences.