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### 111 **TEMPLE** UNIVERSITY

Broad Street at Montgomery Ave., Phila., Pa.



## Amended Quarantine Law To Relieve Congestion

N amendment to the quarantine Alaw of 1893, permitting quarantine officers to inspect ships at any hour during the day or night has just gone into effect, the U.S. Public Health Service has announced.

This amendment was characterized by health officials as one of the most important and progressive steps in quarantine regulations since the passage of the original act. By it harbor congestion will be relieved and accidents reduced, valuable time will be saved to commerce and the U.S. Public Health Service, and shipping interests will save considerable money on cargo insurance, it was pointed out.

The original quarantine act provided that officers could board ships for inspection only between the hours of sunrise and sunset. It was considered dangerous to pass a ship at night because the quarantine officer could not see well to make his inspection. Now

with electric lights on ships and wharves, the inspection can be made as well by night as by day.

On each Monday and Tuesday morning from 20 to 25 vessels that have come in during the night will be found anchored in New York harbor awaiting quarantine inspection. This causes dangerous congestion and is said to be one cause of the increasing number of harbor accidents, particularly in fogs. Through the new regulation, these ships can be inspected and allowed to proceed to their berths shortly after arrival, leaving the harbor free for the morning coastwise and other traffic.

A large financial saving is expected to be made, particularly at western ports, where three- and four-million dollar shipments of silk come in from the Orient. The saving of a few hours' time will save large sums on the insurance of these cargoes, it is claimed.

Science News Letter, March 14, 1931

### Depressions May Have Caused Six Stages of Mound Building

PREHISTORIC America had its periods of building activity, and perhaps, in between, its periods of depression. Evidence that no less than six different times Indians of the East St. Louis region organized their efforts to work on the great Powell Mound is the latest discovery made by archaeologists who are now excavating the base of the ancient earthen monument.

Examination of the site indicates that there was no very long gap of inactivity between the building of the six successive stages of the mound, Dr. A. R. Kelly, director of Illinois Archaeological Explorations, stated to Science Service. The mound is definitely prehistoric and may well be at least one thousand years old, he said.

The Powell Mound, which is part of the famous Cahokia group of Indian mounds, is proving a strategic site for

scientists who are writing America's prehistory. Explorations so far offer convincing assurance that Indians of Cahokia were linked culturally with Florida and the Gulf of Mexico to the south and also to the north with Wisconsin.

Dr. W. C. McKern of the Milwaukee Public Museum finds a marked similarity between the Indians of East St. Louis, as shown by their mound in its contents, and the mound building Indians of Aztalan, in Wisconsin.

A link with the south is found in two species of shells in the Cahokia burials. These shells are from the Gulf of Mexico. Copper-covered wooden objects shaped like spindles and believed to be either ornaments or game pieces have been found in Powell Mound, and these are almost exactly like objects found in a Florida mound twenty-five years ago, it is recalled.

Science News Letter, March 14, 1931