



TERROR BIRD

The modern eagle skeleton at the right will give you an idea of how huge was the five-foot-tall flightless terror bird that stalked through South America from about 22,000,000 until 2,000,000 years ago. This restoration is on exhibition at the Field Museum of Natural History.

and Roland T. Bird of the American Museum, found evidences that the sauro-pod dinosaurs (they of the fat-bellied, long-necked, long-tailed variety) persisted in this part of North America for millions of years after they had disappeared from their more familiar stamping grounds in what is now the northern Great Plains and Great Basin areas. Possibly the Big Bend had a more favorable climate for them then, with deep swamps rich with lush vegetation—it is cactus and chaparral country now.

Dr. Brown also found evidence bearing on a long-debated question of how these immense reptiles got about. It has sometimes been conjectured that even their massive legs could not support them, but that they rested their bellies on the ground, like lizards or alligators.

A beautifully preserved slab of rock bearing imprints of all four of a sauro-pod's feet shows no belly-trail. It appears to have been putty-like mud at the bottom of a shallow lake when the huge saurian walked across it, his ponderous bulk partly buoyed up by the water. This also has been one of the hypotheses regarding sauro-pod locomotion. Dr. Brown secured a slab bearing these footprints, which has been shipped to the American Museum. It is 29 feet long and 7 feet wide, and bears the prints of all four feet. A similar slab was excavated and presented to the University of Texas. All told, the expedition brought back 22 tons of fossil specimens.

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POLITICAL SCIENCE

Counter-Plan for Small Nations Urgent Need of Democracies

Federation Under Protection of Democratic Powers Urged for Units Geographically or Culturally Akin

DEMOCRACIES urgently need a counter-plan for bringing order out of chaos in smaller nations of Europe, if they are to checkmate the Nazi intent to enslave a great part of the continent.

Presenting this crucial problem to the American Historical Association, meeting in New York, Prof. Oscar Jaszi of Oberlin College advocated a federation of smaller units culturally and geographically connected, such as Danubian, Balkan, and Baltic federations under protection of strong democratic powers.

The only other prospect for Europe's minority problems, economic worries, and educational future will be to become part of a planned economic system imposed by Germany to further her own economic goals, he pointed out.

"Whereas the Nazis are going on," he added, "to establish the new economic structure with blood and iron, with playing off one nationality group against the other, it is appalling to see that the leading democracies in their death struggle were unable to offer even a theoretical plan for making an end to the Central European chaos.

"If this attitude should continue, they must be regarded as conservative, nay, reactionary forces opposed to the Nazi revolution."

Modern Thailand (Siam) is attempting an economic and social revolution to strengthen its position in the troubled Far East, Dr. Kenneth P. Landon of Earlham College, Richmond, Ind., reported to the historians.

Chinese and Europeans are being dislodged from monopolizing business and industry in Thailand, he stated. Only Thai people may be butchers, drive taxis, or engage in many other lines of work. The government operates a silk factory, sugar factory, oil refinery, textile mill and other plants.

Thai people, who formerly scorned commercial careers for their sons, are now given the ideal of the business man to admire. If the nationalistic program is successful, said Dr. Landon, the Thai will become a business people.

Prestige of the military has risen with the tide of nationalism, he finds, replac-

ing ill-repute which used to be attached to conscriptive service. The government is itself in the hands of military men, and military budgets have greatly increased.

Thailand's economic and social revolution is a direct outcome from free government and national spirit, said Dr. Landon, contrasting progress the Thai are making with the condition of colony neighbors who depend for good government on controlling powers.

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ENTOMOLOGY

Can't Trap Mosquitoes With Scents or Lights

WHAT makes a mosquito come and bite you? Dr. Kenneth B. M. Crooks of Hampton Institute has been trying to find out, but so far without much success, he reported before the meeting of the Entomological Society of America.

It wasn't just curiosity that impelled Dr. Crooks. If something can be found that attracts mosquitoes as powerfully as cheese attracts mice or catnip lures cats, it can be used as a bait for insect traps. Other insect pests are being trapped with considerable success nowadays, using lights of various colors, attractive odors, and so on.

Among the things used in the experiments were human blood and body secretions, soiled clothing, etc., as well as more than 300 kinds of odorous chemicals, perfumes, several diverse wavelengths of light, and differences in temperature and humidity. Numbers of mosquitoes, of four different species, attracted by any of these, Dr. Crooks reported, were "disappointingly small." Mosquito traps therefore do not look very promising.

An interesting by-product of the investigation was the discovery that mosquitoes apparently can "see" ultraviolet radiation, which is invisible to human eyes. The insects were repelled by it, as well as by several visible colored wavelengths.

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