

GEOLOGICAL NOTES AND NEWS

The work of the French Geological Mission in China:—

During August the French Geological Mission worked in the Quarternary deposits which were explored by Père F. Licent and Père Teilhard in 1922 along the Sjara-Osso-Gol (SE. Ordos). A large number of fossil mammals including *Rhinoceros*, *Equus*, *Hemionus*, *Camelus*, *Sus* etc. was made. In the lower and most fossiliferous part of the formation numerous small Palaeolithic implements of quartzite were collected, perfectly *in situ*. Some human remains (skulls and femur) were also met with. However, their stratigraphical position has not yet been ascertained; but excavations are still going on. In the beginning of September, the party made a short and preliminary exploration in the mountains of southern Hsai Yuan, northern Shensi. It was observed that the fluvial beds of the Sjara-Osso-Gol pass laterally into the great loess of Shensi; and in the basal conglomerate of the loess six Palaeolithic implements of quartzite were found. In the Red Earth underlying the loess numerous remains of Bontine mammals were collected. Underlying the Red Earth the post-Carboniferous sandstone furnished some remains of ganoid fishes and a rich collection of plants which are probably of upper Jurassic age. Besides, Neolithic implements were abundantly found.

More Palaeolithic sites with abundant implements of Mousterian type have been subsequently found. Two papers recording the geological conditions in Ordos and the Palaeolithic sites will be presented before the next annual meeting of the society by Père Teilhard.

The most recent work of the Far Eastern Geological Committee, Harbin and Vladivostok:—

P. Polevoi is working in the northern naphtha-bearing region of Kamtchatka and will return soon.

J. A. Preobrazhensky work in the auriferous region of the "White Mountains" near the lower Amur river. He also works in the river Limuri (between the rivers Amur and Amgun), a region not visited yet by any geologist.

J. Makeroff is in the "Golden Mountains" (government of Amur, basin of the river Gilui).

A. N. Kosloff working in the coal basin of the river Suifun near the Chinese border, 160 verst from Vladivostok.

T. Pavloff is working in the coal-bearing region of the lower part of Sutchan.

E. E. Ahnert has made some geological researches in the unexplored region of Achile and the river Mudan-Tsian, some Palaeozoic fauna were collected.

In the "Records of the Geological Committee of the Far East" for the year 1923 the following articles have been published:

No. 18 "On the Contemporaneity of the Tertiary Dui and Mgach Series of Russian Sakhalin" by A. Krichtofovich.

No. 22 "The lower Jurassic Tonkin beds found in the Ussuri District" by A. Krichitovich."

No. 25 & No. 26 Annual Reports for 1921 & 1922.

No. 27 "Useful Minerals of the Far East (Russian)" by P. Polovoi & G. Stolnoff.

In the year 1923 the Committee enlarged its library to 1500 volumes, organized the "Bureau of useful Fossil" and made the catalogues of fossils and other materials. In the year 1924 nine parties will be sent out and a "Sketch Map of the Geology of the Russian Far East" will be compiled.

A. Stolnoff who worked on the island Timor in 1921 on the request of some Americans has received the invitation to lecture on paleontology and stratigraphy in the University of Arizona next year.

Mr. P. L. Yuang is working in the districts of Liang Chow, Jung Chang Hsien, Shan Tan Hsien, Kanchow, & Fu I Hsien, NW. Kansu. Many coal fields have been visited and the upper Palaeozoic stratigraphy of the said regions has been studied in detail.

C. C. Liu & C. Y. Hsieh, geologists of the Geological Survey of China, have been assigned by the Survey to make a geological map of the Hupei Province to the scale of 1:500,000. This work is to be carried on in close coöperation with the Hupei Industrial Bureau. In the last autumn (from Sept. 20—Dec. 10th 1923) Messrs. Liu and Hsieh started their first field work in the southeastern part of Hupei covering an area of eleven districts or approximately 64, 000 sq. li. They found, among many interesting things, a lot of new and important fossils in which the Siluro-Devonian Trilobites and Brachiopods, the Permian Gastrioceras and the Jurassic plant fossils are of special value. By the aid of these fossils, it has been possible to work out a more clear stratigraphy which has hitherto not been available.

In the autumn of 1923, H. C. T'an went to Hsin Cheng, Honan, to observe the site where the ancient bronze-ware were found. They are said to be the remains of the late Chow Dynasty, also found many potteries and porcelain articles which are of different ages. He supposes that they were left in a cave, not in a tomb, though the latter case is believed generally by most of the visitors. In the winter he worked on the geology of the Pei Piao coal field, Joho; fossil insects and pelecypod fossils were found. The coal series may be of Jurassic age, but differs from other Jurassic coal series in northern China by intercalating with lava flows. In the same season he went to Lin Yü, Chihli, to find the

material for preparing cement. He discovered that the conglomeratic and oölitic limestones are contained not only in the Cambrian strata but occasionally also in the Ordovician strata.

Mr. T. O. Chu, one of the charter members of our society and geologist of the National Geological Survey of China has worked for some years in the University of Wisconsin and the University of Minnesota and now return to Peking. Before leaving the states he was appointed by the Survey the delagate to the International Petroleum Exposition and Congress at Tulsa, Oklahoma. In a short time he will be charged the work of making a preliminary survey in the Chekiang province under the cooperation of the Provincial Geological Survey of Chekiang and the National Survey at Peking.

L. F. Yih and C. Li, members of the National Geological Survey of China sent to the southernmost part of Anhui, last fall, now return to the office with a rich collection of specimens; especially abundant are the Permo-Carboniferous fossils. According to their communication the well-known and best sort of China-clay or Kaolin produced at Chi Men Hsian (祁門縣), which has been visited, but had not been studied in detail by von Richthofen in 1869, is found to be an alteration-product of some quartz-porphyry.