

### COLUMBIA GEOLOGY HEAD VISITS OREGON CAMPUS

Dr. Charles Berkey to Join Expedition to Mongolia

### RACE BEGINNINGS SOUGHT

Party Financed by Museum and Asia Magazine

On his way to join a scientific expedition which hopes to discover evidences of the beginnings of the human race in the little known regions of outer Mongolia, Dr. Charles P. Berkey, head of the department of geology of Columbia University, visited the University of Oregon campus Tuesday.

Dr. Berkey, who is a personal friend of Dr. Edmund Hodge, of the university's department of geology, is one of the geologists in the group of scientists who form the nucleus of the expedition which is headed by Roy Chapman Andrews. The expedition is being financed by the American Museum of Natural History of New York City and by the magazine, Asia. A sum of \$250,000 has been provided for the use of the party and it is expected that five years will be spent in the research. Representatives of the natural sciences are included in the members of the party, which will attempt to cover every possible feature of the territory.

**Once Fertile, Now Desert**  
Although the territory in which the expedition plans to spend its time is now largely a sandy waste, it was once a thickly populated and fertile region, according to Dr. Berkey. It is but little north of the ancient route from Peking to Constantinople and it is across this plain that historians believe that one horde of yellow-skinned warriors passed on their way west on an attempted conquest of Europe.

A great inland sea, a veritable Asiatic Mediterranean, once covered the great Gobi desert, said Dr. Berkey. It is about the ancient shores of this sea that the scientists hope to find some of their most valuable material. Although the winds of centuries have drifted sand across the plain until it is deeply buried in many places, Dr. Berkey expects to find evidences of past life in water-cut channels and in the caves of the mountains which once bordered the sea.

**Human Ancestor Sought**  
By searching these natural features of the country and by excavation the scientists hope to come upon the remains of man and beast which will disclose something in the development of peoples. The Mongolian regions into which the party will penetrate are northeast of the district in which it is generally conceded that the human race had its origin, but it is thought not improbable that some of the first scenes in the drama of humanity were enacted in this portion of China.

The country is nominally under the control of the Chinese republic, but it

is loosely governed and it is expected that hostile bandits will be encountered during the party's stay. At Peking an attempt will be made to secure the co-operation of the Chinese government and in the event that it is obtained specimens will be collected for both.

**Region Little Known**  
So little is known about the region that the best maps available are those made by the Russian military general staff in previous years, said Dr. Berkey. It appears that during the czarist regime the militarists of Russia had their eyes on Mongolia and had made as thorough investigation of the country as possible. The party has these maps in its possession. So far as is known, no scientific expeditions have been sent into this region since 1914 and it is not known just what opposition and difficulties can be expected, Dr. Berkey stated.

There are about ten scientists in the party, which is to sail from San Francisco, and with assistants and interpreters the total number will be about 25, said the geologist. The first year will be spent largely in reconnaissance work and in making out a program to follow for the remaining four years.

Dr. Berkey was the guest of the University Science club at a luncheon Tuesday noon and after being shown the campus he was taken on an automobile trip throughout the country adjacent to Eugene.

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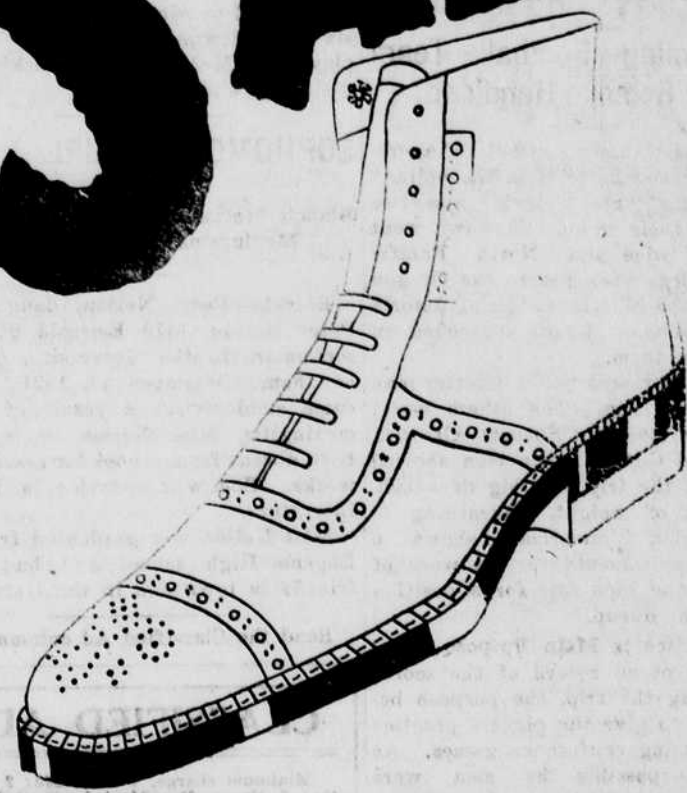
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