

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 27, 1915.

Dr. Edgar L. Hewett,
Director of Exhibits,
Panama-California Exposition,
San Diego, California.

My dear Dr. Hewett:-

I have been home now for a few days and I must confess I have brought with me a longing for San Diego, with all its rains and difficulties. It is now not only a longing, but also an anxiety, for the first thing I have learned upon my arrival was that Dr. Thompson's detail was positively declined by the Secretary of the Navy. Prof. Holmes says he has written to you all about it, so I need not go into details. There is some mention being made of some army surgeon, but I can get no details, and perhaps you can enlighten me. At all events, I want to hear how things are going; whether you have received the reprints of the Smithsonian paper; and whether the indispensable Catalogue is already printed.

On my lecture trip I called attention everywhere to the Exposition, and I find that a good deal of interest is being taken in San Diego, though there is scarcely anything known about it. Everybody is wondering why "nothing is published" about that Exposition, and in many minds there is even a confusion between Panama-California and

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California-Pacific. It surely seems that it would pay San Diego if a really first-class magazine writer were engaged and a representative of the Associated Press were invited to write a series of first-class articles about the Exposition. There is still plenty of time, for the majority of the people will not go to California until after the San Francisco Exposition is open. The latter, as I conceive it, after seeing it, will in no way interfere with San Diego, but will be its feeder. It is a huge thing, very costly and very artistic in spots, but crude and nowhere near as charming as that of San Diego. I am afraid that after the two be better known, many people will be directed by their friends to San Diego and will leave out San Francisco.

Among other things, I find that the fear of the earthquake is still strong with many, and all know that the Exposition is built on the worst possible ground for such an occurrence.

A day or two ago I had a chance to discuss matters with Michael Carroll, and I find that he is very much in favor of holding the summer school of the Institute in connection with the Exposition during July or August. As usual, however, the question of means comes in, but

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there is no telling as yet how it will be settled. I should regard such a course in connection with the Exposition as most important, both for the latter and for the school. It is, in fact, indispensable, it seems to me, if any favorable arrangement is to be expected in regard to the future connection of the school with the exhibits.

I am informed that the remainder of my charts from Europe are now on their way and am somewhat in doubt as to what would be the best to do with them when they come. I may, of course, send directions about where they should be placed, but it needs one to be on the spot to note any possible crowding or disharmony. For this reason it might be better to postpone their shipment to San Diego until later on and to attend to their installation in person. I shall be guided in this move by your advice. There will be a few other things besides these charts.

I had a delightful time in Los Angeles, Denver, Pueblo and in fact in all the other places that I stopped; but some of the local organizations need some attention. At St. Louis and Pittsburgh they could unfortunately not agree on a date. Had I known this in time I should have stopped at Boulder.

I am now devoting a good deal of my time towards finishing the accounts and other matters in connection with

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the Exposition, but it is a tedious work and I doubt very much if the final account can be made ready by the Smithsonian before summer.

Hoping to hear from you before long, and with kindest regards to Mrs. Hewett, I am,

Yours,

A. Z'dlichka

AH/W