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ACHIEVEMENTS OF USSR SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS  
SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1952

SEEK MINERALS FOR LOCAL INDUSTRY -- Minsk, Sovetskaya Belorussiya, 13 Sep 52

The Belorussian Geological Administration is doing extensive work in the search for useful minerals for the needs of local industry in the Belorussian SSR and adjacent republics.

A joint expedition led by M. Ivash is conducting a search for local deposits of clay and chalk suitable for the production of building materials.

In the Minsk area, a deep well is being drilled for the purpose of utilizing mineral waters for medicinal purposes. Using them as a base, it is proposed to construct a hydropathic establishment.

5 GROUPS OPERATING IN AZERBAIDZHAN SSR -- Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 17 Sep 52

The Institute of Geography, Academy of Sciences Azerbaydzhan SSR, has equipped five expeditions in different areas of the republic. A climatic expedition has been working on the southern slopes of the Great Caucasus Mountains (in the Nukha Zakataly, and other areas), with the task of selecting land where climatic conditions are suitable for tea cultivation.

The expedition investigated the upper strata of the atmosphere. Valuable information was obtained about temperature, air currents, humidity, and pressure at different levels.

The members of the expedition also made observations of the peculiarities of the microclimate in the neighborhood of tea plantations. The climatic and microclimatic facts gathered by the expedition are important for determining the possibility of tea cultivation and potential yields in the investigated regions.

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Climatic expeditions were also sent to the Mingechar area and to the territory of the western group of state shelter belts. The first studied the climatic peculiarities of the future Mingechar Sea, and the second the influence of shelter belts on the surrounding locality.

A hydrological expedition is studying the water reserves of Azerbaydzhan SSR rivers.

The Institute of Geography is working at present on a chart of the geomorphology of the Azerbaydzhan SSR. A geomorphological expedition was equipped to gather material for the drawing of this map. It went to the northeastern slopes of the Little Caucasus Mountains within the limits of the Murovdag and Shakhdag ridges and explored the little-known high mountainous portion. Afterward, the expedition visited the northern slopes of the Gyamysh Mountains and the Murovdag Ridge area of the Kyapaz Mountains. It then crossed the upper course of the Dzegambay River in the central part of the Shakhdag Ridge and went on to Lake Sevan. The geomorphologists have made a general description of the relief of all the explored section and have revealed previously unknown areas of ancient glaciation in the Shakhdag Ridge.

STUDY PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE TSIMLYANSKAYA SEA -- Kishinev, Sovetskaya Moldaviya, 18 Sep 52

Scientific expeditions studying the varied problems connected with the creation of the Tsimlyanskaya Sea include a large scientific research expedition of the Scientific Research Institute of Lake and River Fishing, led by Professor Dryagin, Doctor of Biological Sciences, which is working in the area around the Nizhne-Chirskaya station. It is studying the formation of the reservoir, its hydrological system, spawning conditions for fish, and the food base for the development of fishing. The material gathered by the expedition will make it possible to draw conclusions about the possibilities of developing fishing in the Tsimlyanskaya Sea.

Groups of a large joint expedition of the Institute of Geography, Academy of Sciences USSR, are working in the Kalach, Nizhne-Chirskaya, Kotel'nikovskiy, Tsimlyanskaya and other areas immediately adjacent to the shores of the Tsimlyanskaya Sea. The expedition is covering a vast territory extending from the northwestern shores of the Tsimlyanskaya Sea, to the eastern boundaries of western Kazakh SSR. In this area are located the Tsimlyanskaya Sea, the Volga-Don Canal, the Stalingrad Hydroelectric Project, and large irrigation systems under construction. The purpose of the expedition is to study the economic-geographic conditions of areas around the giant hydroelectric projects, and changes in the economy of these regions caused by the creation of large reservoirs and canals.

EXPLORE PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENTS OF EASTERN SIBERIA -- Moscow, Trud, 27 Sep 52

The Angara Archaeological Expedition of the Institute of the History of Material Culture, Academy of Sciences USSR, has been working for 4 months in Eastern Siberia.

Members of the expedition are studying the ancient archaeological monuments of Eastern Siberia. They have explored the ruins of a settlement of hunters and fishermen who lived there 10,000 to 15,000 years ago. They found stone hearths, stone instruments, bones of animals and fish, and harpoons made of bone for catching fish. The nature of these discoveries indicates a connection between the people who lived here and tribes in Mongolia and Northern China.

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Iron-smelting equipment found on islands in the Angara River is especially interesting and seems to prove that these islands were the center of iron smelting in the Lake Baykal region.

In the Kuda River area, an ancient city site was found, where stone slabs with designs representing horsemen, human figures, and the hunt were uncovered. This discovery gives valuable information about the habits and customs of the inhabitants of Eastern Siberia.

Workers of the Institute of Culture, Buryat-Mongoliskaya ASSR, and teachers and students of the Chita Pedagogical Institute took part in the archaeological investigations.

STUDY BIRDS THAT PREY ON FISH -- Alma-Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 7 Sep 52

The expedition of the Zoological Museum of Moscow State University has returned to Moscow from the Kazakh SSR. N. A. Gladkov, Doctor of Biological Sciences and Stalin Prize Winner, gave the following information to a Kazakhstanskaya Pravda correspondent:

The study of birds that prey on fish has been conducted for 3 years in the Aral and Caspian seas. The struggle with these enemies of fishing has great significance in these bodies of water, where as a result of the great construction projects, water conditions have changed and artificial fish cultivation will be widely employed.

The cormorant which eats as much as 800 grams of fish per day has been especially damaging to fishing. In the search for mass nesting places of cormorants, we explored the northern shore of the Caspian from Astrakhan' to Gur'yev, the northern shore of Mangyshlak peninsula, and the southeastern shore of Kara Bogaz Gol Gulf. For the first time in the history of ornithology, we employed aerial reconnaissance.

It was determined that the cormorants fly north beyond Fort Shevchenko in the second half of summer. Part of them fly to the Aral Sea. In 1948, I ringed several cormorants on islands in the Aral Sea. This year, one of the hunters of Baytino village, Shevchenkovskiy Rayon, Gur'yevskaya Oblast, gave me a ring that was found on a bird killed by him.

On the steep capes, we found traces of a former mass nesting place of birds. Evidently the cormorants had abandoned the nesting place when the local inhabitants frightened them away. A small colony of cormorants was found only on the small, stony island of Kos-Kuduk. During our 2-month stay in the Caspian, we collected many new facts about the feeding of birds that prey on fish and their distribution in the nesting period, but the place of their mass reproduction remains unknown. Exploration of the shores of the Caspian in Kazakh SSR territory continues. The study of these birds makes it possible to develop more effective methods of combating them.

CONDUCT SOIL IMPROVEMENT INVESTIGATIONS -- Frunze, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, 26 Oct 52

On 25 October, the soil expedition of the Institute of Soil Science, Academy of Sciences Kazakh SSR, returned to Alma-Ata. The members of the expedition spent almost 6 months in the northern Caspian region, where they conducted soil improvement investigations in the areas to be irrigated and supplied with water by the Volga-Ural Gravity Canal.

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The Kazakh scientists have discovered sizable areas of brown, chestnut, and other soils in regions which were considered unsuitable for agriculture but which can be utilized for the cultivation of many crops.

The expedition's study of the physical qualities of the water and the salinity of the soil in the Caspian Lowland, has aroused much scientific and practical interest. The huge amount of material assembled by the expedition makes it possible to begin the development of agrotechniques for the cultivation of agricultural crops in the light chestnut and brown soils of the Caspian Lowland, the ancient delta region of the Ural River, and the Caspian shore areas.

STUDY GLACIER SYSTEMS -- Alma-Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 16 Sep 52

Several days ago, the expedition of the Sector of Geography of the Academy of Sciences Kazakh SSR returned to Alma-Ata from the glaciers of the Dzhungarskiy Ala-Tau Mountains.

In the Dzhungarskiy Ala-Tau Mountains are found the sources of the rivers which water the fertile valleys and foothills, with their ever-increasing rice, and sugar beet, truck garden, cucurbit, and orchard crops. The power of the falling waters of these rivers moves the turbines of the hydroelectric stations.

The study of the glaciers of the Dzhungarskiy Ala-Tau Mountains was begun comparatively recently.

Beginning in 1947, expeditions for the exploration of the glaciers of the Dzhungarskiy Ala-Tau were conducted by the Sector of Geography of the Academy of Sciences Kazakh SSR under the direction of N. Pal'gov, Doctor of Geographic Sciences. Since that time the upper courses of the Lepsa, Khor, and Bol'shoy and Malyy Baskan rivers have been explored. More than 20 glaciers with a total area of 80 square kilometers have been counted at the sources of these rivers. Special attention is being given to the study of these glacier systems.

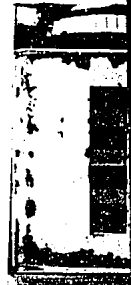
RECORD HISTORICAL ERA IN CENTRAL ASIA -- Frunze, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, 16 Nov 52

An expedition of the State Historical Museum, which has been working in various regions of Central Asia, has returned to Moscow. The members of the expedition visited Leninabad, Stalinabad, Fergana, Kokand, Margelan, Ura-Tyube, and other cities in the Uzbek SSR and Tadzhik SSR. They continued their work, begun last year, on the history of the peoples of Central Asia in the second half of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries.

At Kokand, they acquired materials that showed the conditions of labor and life of the handicraft workers and tradesmen of that period.

The members of the expedition recorded more than 80 stories of old peasants and workers. They brought back about 200 different articles reflecting the living conditions, creative work, and trades of the peoples of the Uzbek and Tadzhik SSR.

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LEAVE FOR MAIN TURKMEN CANAL ZONE -- Alma-Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 14 Sep 52

A new detachment of the joint Aral-Caspian Expedition of the Academy of Sciences USSR has left Moscow for Kizyl-Arvat. On the staff of the detachment are about 30 men -- geologists, paleontologists, hydrologists, geomorphologists, and geochemists. The expedition will considerably extend the work connected with the exploration of the natural wealth and the construction of irrigation systems in the zone of the Main Turkmen Canal during the present year.

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