

CITROEN CENTRAL ASIATIC EXPEDITION.

New headline
in text

The second expedition arranged by Citroen has returned. We have received the newspapers with the first information about the results. We have seen the first photographs of the objects brought by the second expedition. We deeply regret the loss to the expedition in the premature death of its chief, Haardt. But we were delighted that the remaining participants of this expedition in the persons of Louis Audouin-Dubreuil, J. Hackin, O. Teilhard de Chardin, and others returned safely and brought new scientific reports. We were delighted to hear about the splendid new drawings of Jacovleff. From personal experience we are aware of how difficult such trails are and how necessary it is to value each success among these valorous achievements.

After this second expedition arranged by Citroen, one cannot but make a complete deduction and mark the uniqueness of these undertakings. We did not see the first exhibition, the results of the African expedition; however, we know the reports about it and the excellent edition of the field works of Jacovleff, who expressed the unrepeatable character of the countries through which they passed.

Both expeditions, the African as well as the Asiatic, evoked definite attention, so needed in the contemporary movements of culture. Looking over the staff of the expedition one may delight at the unusually successful and varied assembling of co-workers in all specialties. Every branch has been represented by one of its most vital and best qualified workers. And yet this does not happen often and every one knows that such a varied chord is not easy to select.

X We know of many expeditions which not only failed to reach their goal,

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but fell apart on the way because of the inexcusable mutual human antagonisms. But in the case of Citroen,s expedition we see not only the conquering of difficulties ,but also a vital,convincing,multiform result.

In this case,we are reminded that the automobile,as one of the most powerful methods of communication,became unifying force in scientific,artistic,cultural researches. In this sence the introduction of an industrial factor,as a unifying and connecting link,appears to be uniquely valuable.

The tasks of culture,about which so much is spoken of at present, also demand contemporary expressions.Culture,as such,excludes each jealous, antagonistic separation.If the heights of civilization and the highest dominions of culture,appear primarily to be a synthesis of all the conquests of human genius,then the methods for the fulfillment of these broadened tasks must also be truly contemporary. In other words,the broad horizon of Culture,as the elevation of the general trend of thought,leads us towards all contemporary discoveries and improvements.

Meters,the radio,television,all submarine and subterranean communications,must lead towards mutual understanding and unity.It is precisely these collective expeditionary tasks,which were expressed with especial vividness in the expeditions of of Citroen and can recall to us the duties of cooperation,which are not based upon nebulous abstractions,but upon the discoveries of our present day. The visitors to the Citroen exhibitions,and the readers of the reports about these expeditions,will be thankful for their collec-

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tive unity, which not only transports them vividly into other lands but, by its multiformity, actually broadens their consciousness.

Some time ago, as was remarkably defined by Anatole France, people were afraid of each synthesis, of each generalization, and through this they forced upon themselves an inevitable, insignificant and fierce dis-unity. The entire culture of our most recent times, in its industrial aspects as well as its spiritual aspirations, strives towards an expression of true cooperation. Mankind is strenuously seeking formulae which would make it possible to come together for peaceful and creative work. All new Conferences, new Societies, Institutions, in one or another measure, have within themselves, this task of cultural unification and mutual understanding .

If it formerly seemed that cultural unification could be expressed primarily in some cultural and artistic domains, it now becomes especially clear, that such unification is much broader than individual branches . They are expressed in a generally elevated trend of mind, in the sense of universal creativeness in all parts of life.

Thus, in the name of Culture, from the League of Culture, one wishes to thank all undertakings similar to the enlightened tasks of the Citroen expedition. In other words, one wishes to thank the inspirators, builders and co-workers of all such undertakings, who, by their self-sacrificing labors, are rousing human thought, and of course, elevating it to a new step . Without these courageous discoveries mankind would again stoop to the routine of daily vulgarity. We know all the difficulties of transportation upon mountain paths and upon the sands of Taklamakan and upon the glacial ranges.

path
 Upon the, we have met many friendly local stories about the great explorer, Sven Hedin, as well as reminiscences of Prejeval-sky and many others, who brought from the depths of the desert, new considerations and new impulses for human thought.

Let us not regret that the romantic camel caravan gives way to the motor, aeroplane, railroads. Let us not regret that the "long ear" of Asia accedes its possibilities to the telegraph and the radio. But let us believe that these improvements will live not only with civilization, but that they will enter benevolently into Culture, not lessening the worth of spiritual values.

The more that jealously-guarded science will be spread, the more it will bring bliss. Folk legends and traditions thousands of years old, will if correctly interpreted in the new light of research give only brilliant new possibilities, and in the true cooperation there cannot appear anything hostile, impeding or demeaning. Everything destructive and decomposing will remain within the limits of ignorance. But every step of cooperation and unification will mean movement towards true enlightenment.

These considerations appear when we see before us the collected works of the last expeditions. One wants to thank the directors and participants for that vigour of thinking, which they are undoubtedly bringing into the human consciousness, at present so agitated and so oppressed. Because verily the new step of progress shall comprise the condition that the latest improvements give their hand to science and art. This collective creativeness imparts that vigour of the spirit of which the new generation is so much in need.

Sincere greetings!

de
 Nicholas Roerich
 Kevlang, Himalayas - August 20th, 1932.

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To the above address, the leader of the expedition, Monsieur Audouin Dubreuil sent the following letter on behalf of the members of the Expedition:

Paris, le 22 Octobre 1932.

A M.le Professor N.de Roerich
Naggar, Indes Britanniques.

Monsieur,

Madame de Vaux-Phalipau a bien voulu me transmettre l'article que vous avez redigé sur notre Expedition au Centre - Asie, ou plutot le vibrant salut que vous nous avez adresse du camp de Kyelang.

Au nom de tous mes camarades, et au mien, je vous exprime les sentiments de notre reconnaissance. Un temoignage comme le votre nous est precieux, nous en sommes fiers.

En outre, dans les lignes bienveillantes et pleines d'interet que vous avez ecrites, vous avez su admirablement expliquer les buts que nous poursuivions, les moyens que nous avions eus a notre disposition, et la foi qui nous animait.

Puisque je vous ecris, je dois vous dire que mes camarades et moi, avons pour votre personne, Monsieur le Professeur, la plus haute estime et la plus vive admiration.

Votre action et votre oeuvre sont de celles qui servent d'exemple aux hommes et qui font honneur a l'humanite, en meme temps qu'elles lui rendent les plus grands services.

Veuillez croire, Monsieur le Professeur, a l'assurance de ma consideration et de mon devouement.

L. Audouin Dubreuil.