

curves. Other experiments have been made, also, at Berlin, which are thought to offer some encouragement, and it is suggested that such a plan may prove satisfactorily operative with large vessels.

The idea is, however, very old; no one knows where or when it originated. Some twenty-five years ago Mr. Gerner, a then well-known inventor and patent attorney, of New York, proposed a somewhat similar scheme, employing rafts or floats at the stern and on either side, which, with the rolling and pitching of the vessel, and the relative motion thus produced, should operate levers on board the vessel, and through them a system of mechanism which should drive a screw and thus impel the ship. Nothing came of it, however.

R. H. T.

REMEASUREMENT OF THE ARC OF PERU.

UNDER date of May 12th the Minister of Public Instruction and Fine Arts announced to the French Academy of Sciences the coming departure from Bordeaux, on the 26th of May, of M. Maurain, captain of engineers, and M. Lacombe, captain of artillery, for Quito. These two officers constitute a commission to visit the stations of the old arc of Peru, measured between 1736 and 1739 by Bouguer, La Condamine and Godin, with the view of a remeasurement of the arc and its extension so as to comprise from five to six degrees of latitude.

This action is hailed with pleasure by geodists everywhere. It is the direct outcome of the renewal of the suggestion for its remeasurement made at the last meeting of the International Geodetic Association, at Stuttgart, in October, 1898.

The proposition that the work should be soon undertaken was brought up by the American delegate, Mr. E. D. Preston, of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, at that Conference, and his action was interpreted to mean that if France would not undertake it some other nation, probably ours, would take steps towards the remeasurement of the arc whose revision is considered of such great importance to geodesy.

LELAND STANFORD JR. UNIVERSITY.

By the recent gifts of Mrs. Stanford, Leland Stanford Jr. University becomes the richest university in the world, far surpassing in its resources Harvard, Columbia or any foreign university. Situated where the development of civilization has been most rapid, and where its future promise is unlimited, under a wise and far-sighted administration, the University will become within a generation one of the greatest universities in the world. Correct details of the gifts and bequests of Senator Stanford, and of the gifts of Mrs. Stanford, will be of interest to readers of this JOURNAL.

The resources of the University consist of three great farms, aggregating 95,000 acres of land, deeded by Act of Legislature. On one of these farms, which constitutes the University Campus, buildings to the value of \$1,000,000 were erected before Senator Stanford's death. By his will the University received \$2,500,000 in cash, invested in interest-bearing bonds. During the litigation following his death Mrs. Stanford deeded to the University her own private fortune, amounting to about a million dollars. The bulk of his fortune was left by Senator Stanford by will to his wife, with the understanding between them that in case she survived him she would do all for the institution that he would have done. This wish she has carried out to the letter, although, as a matter of fact, idle litigation has prevented her from doing anything until very recently. By her recent gift she transferred the residue of the estate to the University, it being necessary to do this by deed of gift under the laws of the State. Mr. Stanford's purpose was a chivalrous one, emphasizing the equality of his wife in their mutual work. The property just turned over has a commercial value—judging from the revenue stamps put upon the deeds—of \$35,000,000. It would probably bring in the market about \$13,000,000. What its actual value may be only the future can determine. The income arising from this final gift is at present relatively small, as by agreement among the railroads, in bonds and stock of which it largely consists, the earnings are for a time to be used in freeing the property from debt and in making improvements.