

*THE PROPOSED NATIONAL UNIVERSITY.*

THE committee appointed by the National Educational Association to consider the advisability of establishing a national university met in Washington on November 3d, and unanimously agreed upon a preliminary report recommending that no new university be established, but indicating the advisability of using the collections and resources of the government for advanced work and the establishment by the government of a school for consuls. The report of the committee is as follows:

(1) It has been, and is, one of the recognized functions of the federal government to encourage and aid, but not to control, the educational instrumentalities of the country.

(2) No one of the bills heretofore brought before Congress to provide for the incorporation of a national university in Washington commends itself to this committee as a practical measure.

(3) The government is not called upon to maintain at the capital a university in the ordinary sense of that term.

(4) That a sub-committee be requested to prepare for consideration by the full committee a detailed plan by which students, who have taken a baccalaureate degree, or who have had an equivalent training, may take full and systematic advantage of the opportunities for advanced instruction and research which are now, or may hereafter be, afforded by the government; such a plan to include the coöperation with the Smithsonian Institution of the universities willing to accept a share of the responsibility incident thereto. It is understood that the financial administration of this plan should be such that whether or not government aid be given, there shall be no discouragement of private gifts or bequests. It is understood that the scope of this plan should be indicated by the governmental collections and establishments which are now available, or as they may hereafter be increased or developed by the government for its own purposes.

(5) The government, through the State Department, might wisely maintain in Washington a school for consuls, analogous to West Point and Annapolis, and make these schools lead to a life career in the government service.

*RESOLUTIONS OF THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONGRESS.\**

(1) THE Congress appoints a Committee of Bio-geographers resident in or near Berlin to draw up a uniform scheme of nomenclature for plant formations, and after consultation with non-resident specialists, to revise the same and present it to the Eighth Congress.

(2) The Congress believes that the plans for international coöperation in Antarctic exploration form an excellent basis for joint research in physical geography, geology, geodesy and biology. With regard to meteorological and magnetic work, however, they appoint an international committee to determine the general scheme and methods to be employed on the expeditions, and to endeavor to organize a system of simultaneous observations in the regions surrounding, but exterior to, the Antarctic.

(3) The Congress expresses the earnest desire that all maps, including those published in countries using English and Russian measures, should, in addition to the graphic scale, bear the proportion of lengths on the map to those in nature in the usual form 1 :  $x$ .

(4) The Congress views it as desirable that the publication of all new geographical material accompanying accounts of travel, should be supported by details regarding the methods of surveying, the instruments employed, and their verification, the calculation of astronomical positions with their probable error, and the method of utilizing these data in preparing the map. Also that all maps published by scientific men, institutions or governments should be accompanied by notes of the principal fixed points.

(5) The Congress expresses the hope that a uniform system of measures will be used in all geographical researches and discussions, and recommends that the metric system of weights and measures be so employed.

(6) The Congress expresses the hope that in scientific publications the centigrade thermometer scale should, as far as possible, be employed; or, at least, the values in centigrade degrees added to those expressed on the scales of Fahrenheit or Réaumur.

(7) With regard to the proposal to introduce

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