

The money has been promised, and we are anxious to find a site. As to the absolute importance to the country of having a laboratory of that kind there is no doubt whatever. That is not the question raised by the Treasury or by any deputation. The real difficulty has been how far this undertaking would interfere with the amenities of Kew Gardens. We want, so far as we can, to satisfy both the scientists and lovers of nature. Undoubtedly there has been some alarm among a certain portion of the public; especially those interested in Kew Gardens and open spaces, that this might to a certain extent interfere with the amenities of Kew. I am bound to say that the impression gathered from you to-day is that to a great extent that alarm is unnecessary. Of course the deputation represented to me the other day the danger of the quiet being disturbed by the noise of the operations in the two proposed buildings, and from what Lord Kelvin and others have said to-day I am satisfied that on that point, at any rate, there need not be any alarm. The most important point that has come out to-day is as to whether after all on this site you are yourselves secure against electrical disturbance. I need not express any opinion upon that. We ought to wait for the report of the Board of Trade committee to see how far that will meet your requirements. I understand that if there is any extension of the buildings required it will be only to a little extent, and the public need not fear that you will build over the whole of these 15 acres.

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#### PROTECTION AND IMPORTATION OF BIRDS.

DURING the last session of Congress a law was enacted, commonly known as the Lacey Act, which places the preservation, distribution, introduction, and restoration of game and other birds under the Department of Agriculture; regulates the importation of foreign birds and animals, prohibiting absolutely the introduction of certain injurious species; and prohibits interstate traffic in birds or game killed in violation of State laws.

The Secretary of Agriculture has placed the Division of Biological Survey of his Department in charge of all matters relating to the preser-

vation and importation of animals or birds under the Act, and Dr. T. S. Palmer, the Assistant Chief of that Division, has immediate charge of the issue of permits for the importation of animals and birds from foreign countries.

The regulations for carrying out the purposes of the Act have just been published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as Biological Survey Circular No. 29, entitled 'Protection and Importation of Birds under Act of Congress approved May 25, 1900.'

The circular explains the object of placing the work in charge of an Executive Department of the Federal Government as being merely to supplement and not to hamper or replace the work hitherto done by State commissions and organizations; in other words, to co-ordinate and direct individual efforts, and thus insure more uniform and more satisfactory results than could otherwise be obtained.

Attention is called to the fact that while the Act provides for the purchase and distribution of birds, no appropriation is made for that purpose. The Department, therefore, has no quail, pheasants, or other game birds for distribution.

The Department issues no permits for shipping birds *from one State to another*. In some States the Board of Fish and Game Commissioners is authorized to issue permits for shipping birds for propagating purposes, and a few States make exceptions in their game laws in the case of birds captured for breeding purposes; but when a State forbids the exportation of birds without exception, interstate commerce in birds from that State is in violation of the Lacey Act, whether the birds are captured during open seasons or whether they are intended for propagation or not.

Persons contemplating the importation of live animals or birds from abroad must obtain a special permit from the Secretary of Agriculture, and importers are advised to make application for permits in advance, in order to avoid annoyance and delay when shipments reach the custom house. The law applies to single mammals, birds or reptiles, kept in cages as pets, as well as to large consignments intended for propagation in captivity or otherwise.

Permits are *not* required for domesticated

birds, such as chickens, ducks, geese, guinea fowl, pea fowl, pigeons, or canaries; for parrots (including cockatoos, lovebirds, macaws, and parakeets); or for natural history specimens for museums or scientific collections. Permits must be obtained for all wild species of pigeons and ducks.

In the case of ruminants (including deer, elk, moose, antelopes, and also camels and llamas), permits will be issued, as heretofore, in the form prescribed for importation of domesticated animals.

The introduction of the English or European house sparrow, the starling, the fruit bat or flying fox, and the mongoose, known also as the ichneumon or Pharaoh's rat, *is absolutely prohibited, and permits for their importation will not be issued under any circumstances.*

Under the regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, in case of doubt as to whether animals or birds belong to the prohibited species, or suspicion on the part of the collector of customs that such species are being entered under other names, the shipment will be held, at the risk and expense of the importer, pending the receipt of special instructions from the Department of Agriculture, or until examined at the expense of the importer by a special inspector designated by the Secretary of Agriculture and the identity established to the satisfaction of the collector.

Special inspectors will be designated at the ports of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, New Orleans and San Francisco, who will examine shipments at the request of the owner or agent, or who may be consulted in case of misunderstanding between owners and officers of the customs. These inspectors are to be designated merely for the convenience of importers, and owners or agents are under no obligations to employ them, but the identity of the species must be established to the satisfaction of collectors, and in case of refusal or neglect, or failure to obtain the permit within the specified time, delivery of the property will be refused and immediate exportation required.

The deliberate shipment of starlings or English sparrows from one State to another is now a violation of law and renders the shipper and carrier liable to the penalties provided in the Act.

The attention of sportsmen, commission merchants, shippers, and express agents is especially called to the sections which make it unlawful to ship from one State to another animals or birds which have been killed or captured in violation of local laws, and which require all packages containing animals or birds to be plainly marked so that the name and address of the shipper and the nature of the contents may be ascertained by inspection of the outside of such packages.

#### MONUMENT TO PROFESSOR BAIRD.

At the annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society held at Woods Holl, July 18-20, Dr. H. M. Smith, of the U. S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries, spoke of the appropriateness of the Society erecting at Woods Holl a memorial to the late Professor Spencer F. Baird, and presented the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, The American Fisheries Society, assembled at Woods Holl, Mass., regards as desirable and proper the erection of a tablet or monument to the memory of the late Professor Spencer F. Baird, in recognition of his distinguished labors in behalf of fish-culture, the fisheries and biological science; and

WHEREAS, The Society deems it appropriate that this memorial should be located at Woods Holl, as a special tribute to his zeal in furthering the interests of marine biology and fish-culture; therefore,

*Resolved*, That a committee with full powers be appointed by the chair to determine the most suitable form of the memorial, to raise the necessary funds, and to proceed with the erection of the monument.

*Resolved*, That the committee notify the surviving members of Professor Baird's family of the proposed action, and invite their suggestions thereon.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the U. S. Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries.

The following committee was appointed, pursuant to the foregoing resolutions: Dr. H. M. Smith (Chairman), Washington, D. C.; Hon. E. G. Blackford, N. Y.; Dr. E. W. Blatchford, Ills.; Hon. George M. Bowers, Washington, D. C.; Mr. Frank N. Clark, Mich.; Mr. Vinal N. Edwards, Mass.; Dr. Bushrod W. James, Penna.; Hon. George F. Peabody, Wis.; Hon. Redfield Proctor, Vt.; Mr. W. de C. Ravenel, Washington, D. C.