

stay, not only in scientific work, but in commerce and manufacturing. It is now used by about two thirds of the people of the world. Russia, Great Britain and the United States are the only nonmetric countries. Russia has gone so far in the direction of its adoption that it may well be excluded from the list, leaving Great Britain and the United States. In both of these it has been legal for some time. Indications are that Great Britain will soon join the list of metric countries. Over 300 members of Parliament have already signified their willingness to vote to make the use of the metric system compulsory.

Your committee believe the time has come for the gradual retirement of our confusing, illogical, irrational system and the substitution of something better. The first step in this direction should be the introduction of the metric weights and measures into the departments of the Government. The use of these weights and measures will simplify their work. It will familiarize the people with them and encourage their application to the common affairs of life. Your committee have no doubt that the benefits to be derived will far more than compensate for such inconvenience and expense as may be involved in the change.

Your committee have amended said House bill 123 in line 4 by striking out the word 'three' and inserting in lieu thereof the word 'four'; also in line 9 by striking out the word 'four' and inserting the word 'seven.'

As thus amended your committee earnestly recommend the passage of the bill.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NOTES.

PRESIDENT A. GRAHAM BELL has appointed General A. W. Greely Chairman of the Committee on the eighth International Geographical Congress which will meet in Washington in 1904 under the auspices of the National Geographic Society. General Greely was the delegate of the Society and also of the United States Government to the Geographical Congress which met in Berlin in 1899 and also to the Congress that met in London in 1895.

DR. ISRAEL C. RUSSELL, Professor of Geography in the University of Michigan, has been

elected a member of the Board of Managers of the National Geographic Society. Professor Russell is one of the three members of the expedition sent by the National Geographic Society to Martinique and St. Vincent.

THE corner stone of the Hubbard Memorial Building which will be the home of the National Geographic Society in Washington was laid on April 26 by Melville Bell Grosvenor, the great-grandson of the late Hon. Gardiner Greene Hubbard, the first president of the Society. It is hoped that the building which is being erected at a cost of \$60,000 will be ready for the Society by January 1, 1903.

THE National Geographic Society has decided to act as trustee for Mr. Borchgrevink for his proposed American expedition to the South Pole. Mr. Borchgrevink proposes to start in the summer of 1903 and will leave the scientific direction to the National Geographic Society.

At a recent meeting the National Geographic Society has instituted a change in its By-Laws and created a body to be known as 'fellows.' 'Fellows' of the Society will be limited to those persons who are actively engaged in geographic work.

EXPEDITION TO MARTINIQUE.

THE National Geographic Society has sent on the *Dixie* three geographers to make a special study of the recent volcanic eruptions. The Society has chosen three of its members, Professor Robert T. Hill, of the U. S. Geological Survey, Professor Israel C. Russell, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and C. E. Borchgrevink, the noted Antarctic explorer, to proceed to the scene of the disturbance to make a careful examination of conditions there.

Professor Robert T. Hill is acknowledged as the foremost authority on the West Indies in this country. He has written many scientific reports and books on Cuba and Porto Rico; has visited Martinique and St. Vincent, and for a long time has predicted the present eruption. Professor Israel C. Russell, head of the department of geography in the University of Michi-

gan, is the author of the book on 'Volcanoes of North America,' the standard work on the subject. Mr. Borchgrevink, when in the South Polar regions, examined the volcanoes Erebus and Terror, the most southern known volcanoes on the globe. He made a careful study of volcanic conditions in the far south, which will enable him to compare volcanic conditions of the far south with those in the center of the globe.

The three scientists go as the representatives of the National Geographic Society by whom their expenses are paid. On their return they will make a special report to the Society which will be published in the journal of the society, *The National Geographic Magazine*.

The importance of this expedition of the National Geographic Society cannot be too highly appreciated. The United States Government has no funds to send a scientific expedition to foreign territory. It is most important that eruptions which have taken place and are now going on should be studied at the earliest possible moment. A scientific investigation of Mount Pelée on Martinique and La Soufrière on St. Vincent and conditions of the neighboring islands will greatly enhance our knowledge of what is going on in the earth below the surface. The sooner the investigation is started the more comprehensive will be the results.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Council of the Royal Society has recommended for election to membership the following fifteen candidates: Mr. H. Brereton Baker, Professor Henry T. Bovey, Professor Rubert Boyce, Mr. John Brown, Mr. William Bate Hardy, Mr. Alfred Harker, Mr. Sidney S. Hough, Mr. Robert Kidston, Mr. Thomas Mather, Mr. John Henry Michell, Mr. Hugh Frank Newall, Professor William M. Flinders Petrie, Mr. William Jackson Pope, Mr. Edward Saunders and Dr. Arthur Willey.

PROFESSOR C. S. MINOT, of the Harvard Medical School, has been granted leave of absence and will spend part of the year abroad. He will, however, give the presidential address at the Pittsburgh meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science,

and will return for the meetings of scientific societies during Convocation week.

THE Hon. James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture, and Dr. B. F. Galloway, chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, will receive the degree of LL.D. at the Missouri State University at the June commencement.

DR. W. H. METZLER, head of the department of mathematics in Syracuse University, has recently been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

THE gold medal of the London Linnean Society has been awarded to Professor Rudolf Albert von K  lliker, of W  rzburg.

DR. J. E. DUERDEN, of Johns Hopkins University, will take the place, for the coming year, of Professor H. V. Wilson, at the University of North Carolina. Professor Wilson has leave of absence and will spend the year abroad.

MAJOR RONALD ROSS, F.R.S., has been appointed the head of a new department of the Jenner Institute of Preventive Medicine, London. The department is to be devoted to the systematic study of the animal parasites.

THE Lawes Agricultural Trust Committee has appointed Mr. A. D. Hall, principal of the Agricultural College, Wye, to succeed the late Sir Henry Gilbert, F.R.S., as director of the Rothamsted Experimental Station.

PROFESSOR GEORGE E. BEYER, professor of entomology at Tulane University, Dr. Oliver L. Pothier, of the New Orleans Charity Hospital, and Dr. Parker, of the Marine Hospital service, have gone to Vera Cruz, where they will make an inquiry into the relation of the mosquito to yellow fever.

DR. T. A. JAGGAR, of Harvard University, and Dr. E. O. Hovey, of the American Museum of Natural History have proceeded to the seat of the volcanic disturbances at St. Pierre for geological investigation.

MR. PERRY O. SIMONS, for the past three years engaged in the collection of scientific specimens in Chile and other South American countries for the British Museum, has been murdered by a native guide.