

a previous committee of the same association on methods of teaching agriculture. Professor Bailey, of Cornell University, in discussing the course, gave his general approval of at least the first two years and said it in many ways corresponded to the course now being offered at Cornell University. The course recommended was as follows:

Freshmen.	Sophomore.	Junior.	Senior.
Botany..... 100	Botany..... 100	Agr. { Agron. ... 50 } 190	Rural Engineering... 60
Chemistry..... 100	Chemistry..... 100	{ Zoot.100 } 40	Rural Economics..... 60
Physics..... 100	Geology 100	{ Agro..... 40 } 30	Land Gardening 30
Zoology..... 100	Physiology..... 100	Veterinary Medicine.. 100	Plant Breeding 30
Geom. & Trig..... 100	Agron. Climate, Soils, etc. 50	Surveying 40	Hist. & Pol. Sci..... 190
English..... 100	Plant Propagation... 50	Shop Work..... 30	Ethics 40
Modern Languages... 150	English..... 100	Forestry..... 30	Elective..... 370
	Modern Languages.. 100	Hort. { Pom..... 50 } 150	
	Drawing. 50	{ Oler..... 50 } 30	
		{ Flor. 30 } 20	
		Psychology 60	
		Modern Languages.... 50	
		Elective. 100	
750	750	750	780
Total.			
Culture..... 250	250	110	230 840
Pure Science..... 500	400	000	000 900
Applied Science..... 000	100	540	180 820
		Elective..... 100	370 470
750	750	750	780

THE METRIC SYSTEM BEFORE CONGRESS.

As most readers of SCIENCE know, a bill is now before congress which, if enacted, will require the use of the weights and measures of the metric system by the government after July 1, 1908. The committee on publicity of the American Metrological Society, of which Professor Simon Newcomb is chairman and Professor James H. Gore, secretary, have sent out the following letter:

It is well known to those interested in the matter that certain persons have for the past three years been actively engaged in opposing the use of the metric system of weights and measures in the United States by all means in their power. In order to accomplish their purpose they have sent out a great deal of literature in which a distorted picture of the real state of the case is presented to their readers. By ignoring some facts, minimizing others, and by the exaggeration of the importance of the residual employment of the old weights and measures where

such use still exists, they have striven to create the impression that the metric system has made but little progress among nations, and that the expense and difficulty of its introduction into this country are insurmountable obstacles to its employment.

To support these contentions they are soliciting every one they can influence to write letters to their representatives in Congress, urging them

to oppose the passage of any bill by Congress in favor of the metric system. They persistently endeavor to create the impression that the bills proposed are intended to forcibly compel the immediate use of said system, by imposing penalties on those engaged in ordinary trades and occupations, and they also exaggerate in every possible way the alleged prospective difficulties of a change from the customary system.

Members of Congress who are acquainted with the subject, and who honestly are endeavoring to find some way by which our country can adopt and enjoy the benefits of the international system of weights and measures, in which all the real progress of the world is now made, find themselves handicapped in their efforts to make their fellow members of Congress see the subject in its proper light by the apparent lack of interest, on the part of the friends of the metric system in our country. The opponents of the system, though few in number, are creating as much noise as possible, while the friends of the system confident of success are doing little to convince Congress of its advantages. We, therefore, earn-

estly request you yourself, to write and also secure from other friends of the system as many letters to representatives in Congress as possible, so that they may see that public sentiment is not one-sided as might seem from the statements of the opponents of the system.

Notwithstanding these misleading statements, the metric system during the past thirty years has made the most substantial and important progress of its history. By the establishment of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in 1872, the metric system became in the fullest sense an international system. Its subsequent introduction into actual and general use in Germany and the neighboring countries have given it the character of a real international system, and secured for it a commanding position which neither the British nor any other system ever possessed, and which make it as near a permanent institution as any human arrangement can be. At the same time it is among English speaking people themselves, the medium in which all scientific research is carried on, the system in which all electrical measurements are made, and in which all higher education is given, for which reason thousands of our young people are already acquainted with it.

Under present conditions the British system is an ugly excrescence on the world's literature and practical arts which the general welfare requires we should abolish as speedily as possible. Already the conflict of two systems is a serious obstacle to international trade and a hindrance to international cooperation in every direction.

For these reasons, among others, we earnestly request you to obtain the largest possible expression of opinion favorable to the introduction of the system into all government work by Act of Congress, by writing yourself, and getting all friends of the system to write to members of Congress in both houses, requesting them to pass the act now pending which provides for the introduction of the metric system into government use. The sentiment in favor of the metric system is so far advanced in the British Empire that it is a question whether we will not be anticipated in its adoption.

The expression of boards of trade, educational bodies and colonial governments leave no doubt but that England would immediately follow us in the adoption of the metric system should we be fortunate enough to first take the step.

In the present state of affairs individual letters are more effective than the resolutions of societies, most of which are already on record.

THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

February 21.—Mr. Humphrey, of the state of Washington, introduced a bill for the protection of game animals, birds and fishes in the Olympic Forest Reserve in the state of Washington. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

February 23.—House Resolution, 13,190, to protect birds and their eggs in game and bird preserves, passed the House of Representatives.

February 28.—A bill (15,849) was introduced to protect wild water-fowl on the Potomac River and its tributaries. Referred to Committee on Agriculture.

March 5.—House Resolution, 13,542, authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to lease land in Stanley County, South Dakota, for a buffalo pasture, passed the Senate.

House Resolution, 13,538, incorporating the Carnegie foundation for the advancement of teaching, passed the Senate with amendments.

February 15.—The Secretary of Commerce and Labor transmitted a letter to the House of Representatives, with a draft of proposed legislation to enable the Bureau of Fisheries to continue the exchange of fish eggs with foreign governments.

February 19.—The same matter was laid before the Senate, with the added proviso that the Department of Commerce and Labor be authorized to donate to foreign governments living fish and other water animals and their eggs, etc., when the efficiency of the Bureau of Fisheries would be enhanced thereby.

The Committee on Public Lands, to which was referred the bill to protect birds and their eggs in game and bird preserves (H. R. 13,190), reported the same with amendment, accompanied by a report. The bill and report were referred to the House Calendar.

February 26.—House Resolution, 13,190, to protect birds and their eggs in game and bird preserves, was referred to the Senate Committee on Forest Reservations and the Protection of Game.

March 12, 1906.—Mr. Lacey, from the Committee on the Public Lands, to which was referred the bill of the House (H. R. 11,016) for the preservation of American antiquities, re-