

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-

ported the same amendment, accompanied by a report (No. 2,224); which said bill and report were referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

A bill to appropriate \$25,000 for the establishment of a fish-cultural station in the State of Nebraska, to be located at a point to be selected by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, passed the Senate.

THE JUBILEE OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OF ST. LOUIS.

THE Academy of Science of St. Louis, which is the oldest body of its kind west of the Alleghanies, held its first meeting and adopted a constitution on March 10, 1856, fifteen of the organizers being present. The week of this year which ended with March 10 has been celebrated by the academy in a modest but fitting manner.

The regular meeting of the week, on the evening of the third, was given up to reminiscences, including a sketch of the history of the academy, accounts of its treasury and collections, an analysis of its scientific publications, and recollections of some of the men who have made it known while winning personal recognition in science.

The anniversary evening was selected for a banquet, at which about one hundred persons were seated. Invitations had been sent to the honorary and corresponding members of the academy and to learned societies with which it exchanges publications, comprising the principal learned societies of the world. Greetings were presented by letters and telegrams from something over one hundred corresponding societies, while thirty-one were represented by delegates who delivered their congratulations in person. In addition to the speeches of welcome and greeting, admirable and inspiring addresses were delivered by Dean Edward A. Birge, of the University of Wisconsin, and Professor Thomas C. Chamberlin, of the University of Chicago.

As lasting souvenirs of the occasion, the committee of arrangements presented to the academy a panel of portraits of the members who attended the organization meeting fifty years before, and a medal bearing on the

obverse the quaint seal of the academy with its dedication 'Humane Scilicet Scientiae et Potentiae,' and on the reverse a portrait of George Engelmann, the prime mover in the organization of the academy and for many years its president. A replica of the medal, in bronze, was given to each person present at the banquet and to each society represented by a delegate.

Like most organizations of its kind, the St. Louis Academy of Science was founded and has been sustained through the self-sacrificing efforts of a few men interested in the promotion of its purposes. A few years ago it was given a home by a lady of St. Louis. Its officers are now hoping that the celebration of its semi-centennial anniversary may bring it to the notice of those who can foster its work, if they will, and lead to a suitable endowment being provided for its maintenance. A fund is needed for the enlargement of its museum, and binding the great library of exchange publications received from other learned societies.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

PROFESSOR E. C. PICKERING, director of the Harvard College Observatory, has been elected a corresponding member of the Berlin Academy of Sciences.

DR. HENRY F. OSBORN, professor of zoology at Columbia University, and curator of paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History, and Dr. O. Hertwig, professor of zoology at the University of Berlin, have been elected foreign members of the Linnæan Society of London.

PROFESSOR ERNST HAECKEL, of the University of Jena, had hoped to attend the meeting of the American Philosophical Society in memory of the two hundredth anniversary of Franklin's birth next month, but his health is such that his physicians have forbidden him to make the voyage.

PROFESSOR B. K. EMERSON, of Amherst College, has been appointed geologist in the U. S. Geological Survey. Since 1883 he has ranked as assistant geologist, and by the new appointment will be in charge of all the geological