

owners have no further use, and will render them accessible to astronomers by the methods described above.

EDWARD C. PICKERING

January 19, 1907

#### THE SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE Seismological Society of America was incorporated under the laws of the state of California on February 13, with a board of directors as follows: George Davidson, president; Andrew C. Lawson, 1st vice-president; T. J. J. See, 2nd vice-president; Alex. G. McAdie, 3rd vice-president; J. N. Le Conte, treasurer; Geo. D. Louderback, secretary; Chas. Burkhalter, W. W. Compbell, C. Derleth, Jr., G. K. Gilbert, A. O. Leuschner, J. S. Ricard.

A letter has been issued, which says: In October 1891 there occurred in Japan what is now historically known as the Mino-Owari Earthquake. Over 7,000 people were killed, 17,000 injured, and 20,000 buildings destroyed. This disaster so impressed the people of Japan that a national movement resulted in the formation of a large general society for the study of earthquake phenomena. An earthquake investigation committee was appointed by the emperor. This committee has already published fifty volumes in Japanese and over twenty in foreign languages. Seventy-five stations have been provided with seismographs and over 1,500 stations report. As a result, Japan is now the foremost nation in activity of earthquake investigation and in devising and applying scientific methods of protection.

The earthquake of April 18, 1906, has brought home to us also the desirability of organization for similar purposes, with the hope that our labors may ultimately be of value to the people in protecting life and property. It is in this spirit that the Seismological Society has been organized. It aims to collect accurate information concerning the mode of action and effects of earthquakes, to establish and train a corps of reliable observers throughout the country, to disseminate the truth among the people, to inform them of the methods devised in various countries to

protect life and property, to supplant any element of terror or helplessness which results from imperfect knowledge by an interest in natural phenomena and a sense of security resulting from familiarity with the facts and the taking of reasonable precautions.

To be of general benefit the society must have a large membership, and the dues (\$2.00 per year, life membership \$25.00) have been placed low for this purpose. The society will inform its members from time to time as to the progress of its work and hopes in the near future to establish a regular series of publications.

Those who are in sympathy with the objects of the society are requested to communicate their desire for membership by writing to the secretary, Professor George D. Louderback, University of California, Berkeley, Cal.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

A SPECIAL act of congress, passed on February 27, authorized the president to appoint Lieutenant and Assistant Surgeon James Carroll, U. S. Army, a surgeon with the rank of major, in recognition of his important experimental work on yellow fever. The president at once approved this bill and sent the nomination to the senate, and it was confirmed promptly, so that Dr. Carroll is now a major in the Medical Department of the Army.

DR. FREDERICK REMSEN HUTTON, for thirty years adjunct professor and professor of mechanical engineering at Columbia University and for six years dean of the faculty of applied science, will become professor emeritus on July 1 next. A suitable tablet commemorating Professor Hutton's services will be placed in the mechanical engineering laboratory.

PROFESSOR LE ROY C. COOLEY will retire from the active duties of the chair of physics of Vassar College at the end of this year.

PRINCE ROLAND BONAPARTE has been elected a member of the Paris Academy of Sciences in the room of the late M. Bischoffsheim.

MR. JOHN HAYS HAMMOND has been nominated president of the council of the Amer-