

have been of the chancellor's making. Neither does there seem to be any investigation as to the merits of any trouble which arises between the chancellor and those under him. The chancellor is to be supported regardless of the fact that injustice may be done thereby.

The conference members of the trustees forming a majority appear to have no duties except to attend meetings of the board twice a year. They listen to the chancellor's report, approve all his recommendations, eat a dinner and adjourn. The other trustees, the business men, are busily engaged with their own affairs and turn the whole administration of the university over to the chancellor. Vacancies in the board of trustees, other than the conference members, are filled by the chancellor nominating one of his personal friends to the position. This gives him practically unlimited power; the board of trustees being made up first of some of the chancellor's rich friends, and secondly, of the inactive conference trustees. The board allows him to do as he pleases and agrees to all his recommendations, even to mortgaging the university for \$400,000 to obtain funds to build the largest college gymnasium in the world, and, if the ideas of the trustee quoted above are followed, to dismiss the head of one of his colleges without any investigation on the part of the trustees to discover whether the dismissed man is a suitable person for the position or not, and without giving him any opportunity to present his side of the case.

The chancellor thus has unchecked power, which always tends to tyranny. The chancellor has, therefore, become a czar.

The conference trustees while they have it in their power to see that the university is provided with the best possible system of government, and while they have every opportunity to study by visiting other universities, what the best system of government is, have abdicated all their power and delivered it to a czar. Under such circumstances it can not be expected that the educational interests of the university can be well managed, any more than it can be believed that the governments

of Russia and Turkey are the best governments under the sun. It is not to be expected that one man, however able he may be, possesses all the wisdom necessary to the proper outlining and developing of the many varied courses of a large university.

The remedy for this state of affairs is entirely within the control of the Methodist church. Controlling as it does the majority of the board of trustees, it can, if it so wills, give the university the best governmental system possible. Would it not be well for the Methodist General Conference to request its committee on education to study the subject and report to the several conferences which have jurisdiction of colleges, what should be the best system of administration in a university, in order to make it as efficient an educational institution as possible and be a credit to the Methodist denomination?

WILLIAM KENT,

*Dean of the College of Applied Science*  
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

#### CONFERENCE ON CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

THE Conference of Governors on the Conservation of the Natural Resources of the country, held in the White House, May 13-16, proved a notable occasion. Except a few detained or called away by pressing state business, all the governors of the states and territories, including Hawaii and Porto Rico, took part, as did the governors' advisers, the justices of the Supreme Court, the members of the cabinet, the presidents of the leading scientific and technical organizations, and a few special guests, including Messrs. Andrew Carnegie, James J. Hill, W. J. Bryan and John Mitchell. President Roosevelt presided throughout two of the five sessions, and during a part of each of the other three. It was the consensus of opinion that the condition and probable duration of our leading resources were summarized more completely than ever before; and that the deliberations did more to emphasize the importance of research relating to the physical phenomena of the continent than those of any other earlier assemblage.

So far as the relations among the states and between these and the national government, are concerned, the general opinion expressed in public addresses and personal conversation was that the conference marked a new era, comparable only with that opened by the Philadelphia Conference in 1787, at which the constitution was framed.

Numerous resolutions were introduced, and were referred to a committee consisting of Governors Newton C. Blanchard, of Louisiana (chairman); John F. Fort, of New Jersey; J. O. Davidson, of Wisconsin; John C. Cutler, of Utah, and M. F. Ansel, of South Carolina; which committee, after weighing all the resolutions, expert statements, and other matter germane to the conference, framed and submitted a general declaration of principles which, after discussion, was unanimously adopted. While the value of any formal document necessarily falls below that of the consensus of opinion and feeling among the nation's executives, it may be regarded as the chief tangible result of the conference. It is as follows:

We, the governors of the states and territories of the United States of America, in conference assembled, do hereby declare the conviction that the great prosperity of our country rests upon the abundant resources of the land chosen by our forefathers for their homes, and where they laid the foundation of this great nation.

We look upon these resources as a heritage to be made use of in establishing and promoting the comfort, prosperity and happiness of the American people, but not to be wasted, deteriorated or needlessly destroyed.

We agree that our country's future is involved in this; that the great natural resources supply the material basis upon which our civilization must continue to depend, and upon which the perpetuity of the nation itself rests.

We agree, in the light of facts brought to our knowledge and from information received from sources which we can not doubt, that this material basis is threatened with exhaustion. Even as each succeeding generation from the birth of the nation has performed its part in promoting the progress and development of the Republic, so do we in this generation recognize it as a high duty to perform our part; and this duty in large degree lies in the adoption of measures for the

conservation of the natural wealth of the country.

We declare our firm conviction that this conservation of our natural resources is a subject of transcendent importance, which should engage unremittingly the attention of the nation, the states, and the people in earnest cooperation. These natural resources include the land on which we live and which yields our food; the living waters which fertilize the soil, supply power and form great avenues of commerce; the forests which yield the materials for our homes, prevent erosion of the soil, and conserve the navigation and other uses of our streams; and the minerals which form the basis of our industrial life and supply us with heat, light and power.

We agree that the land should be so used that erosion and soil wash shall cease; that there should be reclamation of arid and semi-arid regions by means of irrigation and of swamp and overflowed regions by means of drainage; that the waters should be so conserved and used as to promote navigation, to enable the arid regions to be reclaimed by irrigation, and to develop power in the interests of the people; that the forests, which regulate our rivers, support our industries and promote the fertility and productiveness of the soil, should be preserved and perpetuated; that the minerals found so abundantly beneath the surface should be so used as to prolong their utility; that the beauty, healthfulness and habitability of our country should be preserved and increased; that the sources of national wealth exist for the benefit of all the people, and that monopoly thereof should not be tolerated.

We commend the wise forethought of the President in sounding the note of warning as to the waste and exhaustion of the natural resources of the country, and signify our high appreciation of his action in calling this conference to consider the same and to seek remedies therefor through cooperation of the nation and the states.

We agree that this cooperation should find expression in suitable action by the Congress within the limits of, and coextensive with, the national jurisdiction of the subject, and complementary thereto, by the legislatures of the several states within the limits of, and coextensive with, their jurisdiction.

We declare the conviction that in the use of the natural resources our independent states are interdependent and bound together by ties of mutual benefits, responsibilities and duties.

We agree in the wisdom of future conferences between the President, members of Congress and the governors of the states regarding the con-

servation of our natural resources, with the view of continued cooperation and action on the lines suggested. And to this end we advise that from time to time, as in his judgment may seem wise, the President call the governors of the states, members of Congress and others into conference.

We agree that further action is advisable to ascertain the present condition of our natural resources and to promote the conservation of the same. And to that end we recommend the appointment by each state of a commission on the conservation of natural resources, to cooperate with each other and with any similar commission on behalf of the federal government.

We urge the continuation and extension of forest policies adapted to secure the husbanding and renewal of our diminishing timber supply, the prevention of soil erosion, the protection of headwaters, and the maintenance of the purity and navigability of our streams. We recognize that the private ownership of forest lands entails responsibilities in the interests of all the people, and we favor the enactment of laws looking to the protection and replacement of privately owned forests.

We recognize in our waters a most valuable asset of the people of the United States, and we recommend the enactment of laws looking to the conservation of water resources for irrigation, water supply, power and navigation, to the end that navigable and source streams may be brought under complete control and fully utilized for every purpose. We especially urge on the federal Congress the immediate adoption of a wise, active and thorough waterway policy, providing for the prompt improvement of our streams and conservation of their watersheds required for the uses of commerce and the protection of the interests of our people.

We recommend the enactment of laws looking to the prevention of waste in the mining and extraction of coal, oil, gas and other minerals with a view to their wise conservation for the use of the people and to the protection of human life in the mines.

Let us conserve the foundations of our prosperity.

---

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE house of representatives concurring with the senate and by a unanimous vote, has granted an annuity for life of \$125 a month to the widows of the late Major James Car-

roll, surgeon, U. S. army, and the late acting assistant surgeon, Jesse W. Lasear, whose lives were sacrificed in the study of yellow fever in Cuba.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM JAMES, who has been giving a course of lectures on philosophy at Oxford University, received there the degree of doctor of science on May 12.

DR. EDWARD S. MORSE has been elected a member of the Astronomical Society of Belgium.

MR. FRANCIS DARWIN, F.R.S., has been nominated the representative of Cambridge University at a meeting convened by the Linnean Society of London, to be held in July in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the reading of the joint essay by Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace "On the Tendency of Species to form Varieties; and on the Perpetuation of Varieties and Species by Natural Means of Selection."

MR. A. E. SHIPLEY, F.R.S., was elected president of the Association of Economic Biologists, which held its sixth annual meeting at University College, last month.

ON May 12 Professor F. T. Trouton began a course of two lectures at the Royal Institution on "Why Light is believed to be a Vibration" and "What it is which Vibrates." The Friday evening discourse on May 15 was delivered by Dr. H. T. Bulstrode on "The Past and Future of Tuberculosis," and on May 22 by Professor J. C. Kapteyn on "Recent Researches in the Structure of the Universe."

THE Croonian Lectures before the Royal College of Physicians, of London, will be delivered June 18 to 30, by Dr. A. E. Garrod, on "Inborn Errors in Metabolism."

THE German emperor has presented Professor Dörnfeld, head of the German Archaeological Institute at Athens, with a sum of \$1,000 for the purpose of starting excavations on the site of the ancient Pylos.

E. C. PARKER, assistant agriculturist at the Minnesota Experiment Station, will sail on June 30 to become expert adviser to the government officials of Manchuria. With W. H.