

*PRESS BULLETINS OF THE FOREST
SERVICE*

A CLAUSE in the Agricultural Appropriation Bill affecting the Forest Service has been the subject of a recent opinion by the Attorney General. The clause provided that no part of the appropriation for the Forest Service "shall be paid or used for the purpose of paying for in whole or in part the preparation or publication of any newspaper or magazine article, but this shall not prevent the giving out to all persons without discrimination, including newspaper and magazine writers and publishers, of any facts or official information of value to the public."

The question was submitted to the Attorney General by the Secretary of Agriculture, whether this provision of the law prohibited the sending to newspapers, writers, and others of such statements as it has been distributing in the past. To this inquiry the Attorney General replied: "You express the view that in distributing such information as is compiled and sent out by the Forest Service, especially to persons engaged in the practise or study of Forestry, and generally to the public at large through the newspapers and magazines, you are fulfilling the primary and fundamental duty imposed upon the Department of Agriculture by section 520 of the Revised Statutes. Information thus given out will be accompanied by a notice that it is sent in accordance with the proviso to the appropriation act of 1908. There will therefore be no discrimination; and you say, further, that no money will be paid on this account to any newspaper or magazine or to any newspaper or magazine writer or publisher, or to any person not regularly employed in the Forest Service. Obviously, such information as has been collated and distributed heretofore and will continue to be sent out is of value to the public, and certainly your determination that it is so, as head of the Department of Agriculture, is conclusive. Under this state of facts I can see no reason to doubt that your conception of your official duty in this respect is legally correct, and that the Forester may lawfully distribute in-

formation as proposed; and I am also of opinion that information requested by a newspaper or magazine writer or publisher may lawfully be sent in the form of a letter."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR GEORGE E. HALE, director of the Solar Observatory of the Carnegie Institution, has been elected a foreign correspondent of the Paris Academy of Sciences in the place of the late Asaph Hall.

THE Chemical Society of the Netherlands has elected as honorary members Professor J. H. van't Hoff, of Berlin, and Professor J. van Bemmelen, of Leiden.

THE Vienna Academy of Sciences has awarded its Lieben prize of 2,000 crowns to Professor P. Friedländer, of Vienna, for his work on thioindigo, and its Heidinger prize of 2,500 crowns to Professor M. Smoluchowski von Smolan, of Lemberg, for his work on the kinetic theory of molecular movements in liquids and gases.

COUNT ZEPPELIN, on the occasion of his seventieth birthday, has been awarded an honorary doctorate of science by the University of Tübingen. He has also been made an honorary citizen of the cities of Constance and Stuttgart, and has been given the gold medal for art and science by the King of Württemberg.

PROFESSOR A. STODOLA, of the Zürich Polytechnic College, has been awarded the Grashof gold medal of the Society of German Engineers.

M. BOUCHARD has been elected president of the Paris Academy of Sciences to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of M. Becquerel to become permanent secretary. M. Picard succeeds M. Bouchard in the vice-presidency.

AT the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Mr. Waldemar Lindgren, of the United States Geological Survey, has been appointed lecturer in economic geology, to succeed Professor James F. Kemp, of Columbia University.