

*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.

A PORTRAIT photograph of Mr. Thomas A. Edison, showing him in bust length and nearly one half size, has been hung in the electrical engineering reading-room of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It was presented for the purpose by Mr. Charles L. Edgar, president of the Edison Electric Illuminating Company of Boston.

DR. ALÈS HRDLIČKA, of the U. S. National Museum, is at present in field work among the Indians of the western states. He expects to return to Washington in September.

A CARAVAN that has arrived at Lhasa from Leh, in the valley of the Indus, brings a report that Dr. Sven Hedin, the explorer, is in good health.

THE monument in honor of Robert Bunsen, designed by Professor Volz, of Karlsruhe, was unveiled at Heidelberg on August 1.

MR. ANICETO GARCIA MENOCAL, who was born in Havana in 1839 and had served with distinction as an engineer in the service of the United States, died in New York on July 20.

DR. OTTO PFLEIDERER, professor of systematic theology in Berlin and eminent for his work on the philosophy and the history of religion, has died at the age of sixty-nine years.

SIR THOMAS STEVENSON, M.D., scientific analyst to the British Home Office, known for his work in forensic medicine, died on July 28, at the age of seventy years.

DR. KARL HAN, professor of chemistry at Buda Pesth, has died at the age of seventy-four years.

DR. H. JOLY, professor of mathematics at Lausanne, has died at the age of forty-eight years.

THE French Association for the Advancement of Science will hold its thirty-seventh annual meeting this year from August 3 to 10 under the presidency of M. Paul Appell.

THE eighth meeting of the Association of Economic Biologists was held in Edinburgh on July 28, 29 and 30, under the presidency of Mr. A. E. Shipley, F.R.S., who delivered a presidential address on "Rats and their Parasites."

ATTENTION is again called to the approaching meeting of the first International Congress for the Repression of Adulteration of Alimentary and Pharmaceutical Products to be held in Geneva on September 8, 1908. A large number of members from the United States have already joined, but it is desirable to have the largest representation possible from this country. The congress is held under the auspices of the White Cross Society and the Swiss government. The fee for membership is \$4. Dr. H. W. Wiley, of Washington, D. C., chairman of the American committee, will undertake to forward names of members and their subscriptions. Reduced rates will be given on steamship lines and on European railroads. Information will be sent by Dr. Wiley to all persons who desire to be apprised regarding the details of the Congress. Intending members are urged to send in their subscription at once.

THE Philadelphia Academy of Surgery announces that essays in competition for the Samuel D. Gross prize of fifteen hundred dollars will be received until January 1, 1910. This prize is awarded every five years to the writer of the best original essay, not exceeding in length one hundred and fifty printed octavo pages, and illustrating some subject in surgical pathology or surgical practise, founded upon original investigation, the candidates to be American citizens.

THE Board of Agriculture and Fisheries of Great Britain states that the presence of American gooseberry mildew on gooseberry bushes in commercial gardens in Kent has been confirmed. An order of the board requires all occupiers of premises on which the mildew exists to report the presence of the disease, under a penalty of £10. Gooseberry growers are advised to apply to the board for a leaflet describing the appearance of the disease, and giving the precautions that should be taken.

THE *Journal of the American Medical Association* states that in Austria-Hungary, with a population of about 45,000,000, the annual mortality from tuberculosis is 750,000, or 14 per cent. of the total deaths from all causes. The northern parts of the empire show a ratio

of 38 to 48 per 10,000 inhabitants, while the southern parts have only about 22 to 30 deaths from tuberculosis to each 10,000 inhabitants. The highest mortality is found in Bohemia, with a mean of 54 in the north and 36 in the south, per 10,000. Vienna also has a high average mortality from this disease—42 per 10,000—but the hospitals as a center for a large area are largely responsible for this high rate.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

DR. D. K. PEARSONS, of Chicago, has paid \$25,000 to Beloit College and to Pomona College. Dr. Pearsons has now given more than \$4,000,000 to small colleges.

WORK is being pushed rapidly upon the engineering laboratory of the University of Nebraska, the foundations being laid and the workmen now having begun the walls of the lower story. It is to be completed during the coming year.

PROFESSOR ALFRED D. COLE, of Vassar College, returns to the Ohio State University as professor of physics and head of the department, which now numbers eleven men. Professor B. F. Thomas, who has conducted the department for more than twenty years, will give up the executive work, but remains as professor of physics.

PROFESSOR EDWIN M. WILCOX, of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, has been elected to the position of botanist of the Experiment Station and professor of agricultural botany in the University of Nebraska. He has accepted the tender made him by the regents of the university, and will assume the duties of his new position the first of September, at which time his predecessor, Professor Heald, closes his work in Nebraska.

DR. C. H. SHATTUCK, of Washburn College, has recently been called to the chair of botany and forestry in the State Agricultural and Mechanical College, at Clemson College, South Carolina.

IN the University of Virginia Medical School, Dr. H. T. Marshall, formerly professor of pathology in Philippine Medical School, has been elected professor of pathology. Dr. J.

A. E. Eyster, associate professor of physiology at Johns Hopkins has been elected professor of pharmacology and materia medica, and Dr. Carl Meloy, formerly instructor at Johns Hopkins in pathology, has been elected adjunct professor of pathology.

DR. ARON, of Berlin, has accepted the position of professor of physiology in the Philippine Medical School.

C. W. G. ROHRER, B.Sc., M.D., M.A. (Wesleyan), has been appointed associate professor of pathology and assistant in genito-urinary diseases at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Baltimore.

DR. CLIFTON DURANT HOWE has resigned his position of associate director of the Biltmore Forest School, Biltmore, North Carolina, to become lecturer in forestry in the University of Toronto.

THE following promotions were announced at the recent commencement exercises of the St. Louis University School of Medicine: Warren P. Elmer, M.D. (Michigan), and William Engelbach, M.D. (Northwestern), assistant professors of medicine; William W. Graves, M.D. (Washington University), assistant professor of nervous diseases; M. G. Seelig, A.B. (Harvard), M.D. (Columbia), assistant professor of pathology; James M. Wilson, Ph.B. (Cornell), M.D. (Rush), associate professor of embryology.

DR. JAMES WALKER, of University College, Dundee, succeeds Professor Crum Brown in the chair of chemistry at the University of Edinburgh.

DR. H. DOLD, of Tübingen, has been appointed lecturer in bacteriology and comparative anatomy in the Royal Institution of Public Health, London.

PROFESSOR VOLHARD will retire this year from the directorship of the chemical laboratory at Halle. It is understood that he will be succeeded by Professor Daniel Vorlander, at present one of the heads of a division of the laboratory.

PROFESSOR HANS HORST MEYER, the pharmacologist, who was called to Vienna about three