

on agriculture, "demonstrates clearly that the work of the bureau is not a duplication of any being done elsewhere, and that it is of direct and very great value to agriculture"; and the work of the bureau was accordingly continued with an increase of \$10,000 for biological investigations.

The total appropriation for the Office of Experiment Stations, including \$720,000 for the stations under the Hatch Act, is \$1,034,620, an increase of \$21,400. This increase includes \$3,400 for statutory salaries and \$5,000 for agricultural education through farmers' institutes and agricultural schools, making \$10,000 for the latter purpose. For the general maintenance of the Office and the irrigation and drainage investigations the appropriations of this year, \$30,000 and \$150,000, respectively, were continued. The appropriations for the stations in Alaska, Hawaii and Porto Rico were increased \$2,000 in each case to correspond with the increase to the state stations under the Adams Act, and \$5,000 was granted for the establishment and maintenance of a station in the island of Guam. This island, embracing about 210 square miles, has a population of about 9,000, chiefly engaged in agriculture of a primitive sort, and it is planned to extend assistance to its inhabitants who are now experiencing great losses from a cocoanut disease recently introduced, which threatens the complete extinction of the industry.

An appropriation of \$7,000 was also made to the office for setting up and completing the apparatus formerly used in the nutrition investigations and the preparation for publication of results already obtained. In accordance with the current appropriation act, the respiration calorimeter and accessory apparatus belonging to the government have been brought from Middletown, Conn., to Washington, and it is planned to install them in completed form in the basement of one of the new laboratories of the department.

The Bureau of Statistics received an increase in its general fund for the collection of agricultural statistics of \$7,000. Reductions on the statutory roll, chiefly through transfer, made a net gain of \$1,700.

To provide for the increase in the general business of the department consequent on that of the several bureaus, additional appropriations were granted of \$13,700 for the office of the secretary, \$4,900 for the division of accounts, \$18,160 for the division of publications, and \$5,200 for the library. The chief of the division of accounts was made administrative officer of the fiscal affairs of the department. An increase of \$39,200 was also allowed for contingent expenses, of which \$25,000 is for the construction of shops, stables, and storage buildings to replace the present structures and \$8,000 for rent.

The work of the Office of Public Roads was broadened to permit the furnishing of expert advice on road maintenance and administration, as well as on road building, and the appropriation was increased \$17,340. A provision was inserted forbidding the rent or purchase of road-making machinery.

Large as is the aggregate appropriation for the department, it represents only about 1.5 per cent. of the entire federal appropriation and a per capita expenditure of less than 20 cents; and, as has been indicated, much of this sum is in the nature of permanent improvements upon an investment.

COMMANDER PEARY'S EXPEDITION

COMMANDER PEARY, from the steamship *Roosevelt*, at Sydney, N. S., on July 16, addressed to Dr. H. F. Osborn, president of the American Museum of Natural History, the following letter:

We are leaving Sydney to-day for the North. I shall go north across the Gulf of St. Lawrence through the Strait of Belle Isle; along the southern portion of the Labrador coast; to the west coast of Greenland in the vicinity of God-hab; then follow the west coast through Davis Strait and Baffin Bay, and across Melville Bay to Cape York, which, if everything goes well, should be reached about the first of August.

For some ten days I shall be occupied in the region from Cape York (76 degrees north latitude) to Etah (about 79 degrees north latitude), taking on board my Eskimos with their dogs, and hunting walrus for my meat supply.

About the middle of August, after replenishing the coal supply of the *Roosevelt* from the auxil-

iary steamer *Erik*, and putting down a coal depot at Etah, the *Roosevelt* will part company with the *Erik*, turning south for home.

I shall then endeavor to force the *Roosevelt* through Kane Basin, Kennedy Channel and Robeson Channel, to winter quarters at Cape Sheridan on the north coast of Grant Land. I hope to get my ship to Cape Sheridan not later than September 15.

Early in February, 1909, I shall leave the ship with dogs and sledges, in the effort to reach the Pole across the ice of the central Polar Sea.

Returning I shall probably come down upon the northern coast of Greenland, and follow that coast back to the *Roosevelt*, which should be reached about the end of June, 1909.

If the sledging journey has been successful the *Roosevelt* will then force her way south the latter part of July, and I shall hope to get in touch with the world again in September or October of 1909.

Should the effort of the spring of 1909 prove unsuccessful, I have supplies and equipment with which to remain another year, and make a second attempt in February, 1910.

Details of the movements of the expedition (as far as the imperfect communication of the North will permit) can be obtained from my friend, Mr. H. L. Bridgman, secretary and treasurer of the Peary Arctic Club.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Oklahoma constitution contains a provision making it obligatory upon the legislature to establish a Geological Survey. In pursuance of this provision the first state legislature passed a law placing the survey under the control of a commission consisting of the governor, the state superintendent of public instruction and the president of the State University. The sum of \$15,000 was appropriated for the work. The commission met on July 25, and elected as director Dr. Cha. N. Gould, head of the department of geology at the State University of Oklahoma. He was instructed to report as soon as possible on the building stone, road material, and oil and gas of the state. Parties are now in the field investigating these problems.

AMONG the recently elected senators in Italy are G. B. Grassi, professor of comparative anatomy at Rome; A. Carle, professor of

surgery at Turin; P. Foa, professor of pathologic anatomy at Turin; G. D. Novara, professor of surgery at Genoa, and G. Paladino, professor of physiology at Naples.

THE president and vice-presidents of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, on behalf of the council, addressed to Mr. Thomas Bryant, F.R.C.S., a past-president of the college, on July 16, a letter congratulating him on attaining the age of 80 years and still retaining perfect health of mind and body.

SUMS have now been received amounting to a total of \$225,000 for the Koch endowment, to be applied in the crusade against tuberculosis as Dr. Koch may direct.

THE Cornplanter medal for Iroquois Research administered by the Cayuga County Historical Society, of Auburn, New York, has been awarded to Dr. David Boyle, of Toronto.

DR. ALEXANDER TSCHIRCH, professor of pharmacology at Berlin, has been elected rector of the university.

DR. W. R. WHITNEY has been appointed non-resident professor of chemical research in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

PROFESSOR SALVIN-MOORE has resigned the directorship of the Liverpool Cancer Research Committee, and the professorship of experimental cytology in the university.

PRESIDENT GEORGE T. WINSTON, of the North Carolina Agricultural College and Station, has retired with a pension from the Carnegie foundation.

MR. F. G. CLAPP, for a number of years with the United States Geological Survey in the investigation and reports of coal, oil, gas and artesian waters, has resigned in order to take up professional work in geology and allied branches of engineering.

DR. JULIUS HAHN, professor of physics at Vienna, will shortly reach the age of seventy years and will retire from the active duties of his chair.

DR. W. DÖNITZ, head of the scientific department of the Royal Institute for Infectious Diseases in Berlin, has celebrated his seventieth birthday.