

were placed in the hands of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor:

Recommendations.—Agreed on by the Advisory Board Fur-Seal Service (Dr. David Starr Jordan, chairman; Dr. Leonhard Stejneger, Dr. Frederic A. Lucas, Mr. Edwin A. Sims and Dr. Charles H. Townsend), in conference with the Fur-Seal Board (Dr. Barton Warren Evermann, chairman; Mr. Walter I. Lembkey and Mr. Millard C. Marsh), the Commissioner of Fisheries (Hon. Geo. M. Bowers), the Deputy Commissioner of Fisheries (Dr. Hugh M. Smith), Assistant Fur-Seal Agent, H. D. Chichester, and Special Scientific Expert, Mr. Geo. A. Clark, at a meeting held at the Bureau of Fisheries, November 23, 1909, all the above-mentioned persons being present, and the action on each recommendation being unanimous.

1. It is recommended that the agent in charge, fur-seal service, shall, under the direction of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, have full power to limit or restrict the killing of fur-seals and blue foxes on the Pribilof Islands to any extent necessary and that no specified quota be indicated in the lease.

2. It is recommended that, for the present, no fur-seal skin weighing more than 8½ pounds or less than 5 pounds shall be taken, and that not more than 95 per cent. of the three-year-old male seals be killed in any one year.

3. It is recommended that there be adopted a system of regulations similar to those in force on the Commander Islands, the government to assume entire control in all essential matters pertaining to the fur-seals, blue foxes, natives and the islands in general, and the lessee to be restricted to the receiving, curing and shipping of the skins taken.

4. It is recommended that there shall be added to the personnel of the fur-seal service a chief naturalist who shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the investigation, study and management of the fur-seal herd, the blue foxes, and all other life on the islands, and who shall give advice to the agent in charge regarding the number of seals and foxes to be killed each season. The chief nat-

uralist should be a man of recognized standing and experience, and his salary should be not less than \$3,000.

It is also recommended that there be at least one assistant naturalist whose salary should not be less than \$1,800.

5. It is recommended that the agent in charge shall have control of all administrative matters, and in case of a difference of opinion between the chief naturalist and the agent in charge, the decision of the latter shall govern, pending an appeal to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

6. It is recommended that there be arranged a conference of scientific men and diplomats of Great Britain, Canada, Japan, Russia and the United States, for consideration of the question of pelagic sealing as well as of an international game law to protect whales, walrus, sea-otter and other mammals of the sea, the agreement reached by these nations to be submitted to the other maritime nations for their concurrence.

In addition to the above, the conference unanimously adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That we thoroughly approve of the sentiments set forth in the letter of the Commissioner of Fisheries, dated November 17, 1909, addressed to the honorable, The Secretary of Commerce and Labor, in which was urged the necessity of early action which will result in the stopping of pelagic sealing.

THE KUSER ASIATIC EXPEDITION

ON December 29 Mr. C. William Beebe, Curator of Birds in the New York Zoological Park, sailed on the *Lusitania* for London, accompanied by Mrs. Beebe. Mr. Bruce Horsfall, artist, will follow on a later steamer. After several weeks' study of the pheasants in the British Museum, Mr. Beebe will proceed direct to Ceylon and India, where field studies will be made of the wild pheasants and jungle fowl. The object of the expedition is to obtain data, both written, photographed and painted, concerning the ecology of the Phasianidæ. The tentative itinerary includes the Himalayas, Burma, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, Cochinchina, Palawan, Formosa, eastern China and

Japan, the party returning by way of Honolulu and San Francisco.

Mr. Beebe has been granted a twelve months' leave of absence without pay, and in his absence his correspondence and the continuing of his experimental work at the Zoological Park will be carried on by Mr. Lee S. Crandall.

The results of the expedition will be published in monographic form, illustrated with colored plates of all the more important species of pheasants, by Charles R. Knight, Louis Agassiz Fuertes and Bruce Horsfall. The treatment will be rather from the point of view of the ecology of the living birds and their care in captivity, than systematic and anatomical.

Living specimens of Argus and other rare forms will be brought back together with as complete a collection of skins, and studies for backgrounds. The wide-spread interest in pheasants in this country and the lack of knowledge of their habits in a wild state seem to indicate a field for such a work.

The expedition will be made, and the monograph published under the auspices of the New York Zoological Society. Credit for the inception and the entire financing of the expedition and monograph, is due to Colonel Anthony R. Kuser, of Bernardsville, New Jersey. The success of the undertaking will be altogether due to that gentleman's enthusiastic love of birds and disinterested generosity.

Mr. Beebe is in charge of the bird collection and the experimental station at Faircourt Aviaries on Colonel Kuser's estate, and the painting and all other monographic work will be carried on at that place.

MUNICIPAL CHEMISTRY

THE department of chemistry of the College of the City of New York offers during the spring semester a course of thirty lectures on the chemistry of daily life. These lectures will be open to three classes of hearers: (1) Senior students of the college who have complied with the requirements of the department. (2) Employees of the city who have studied

sufficient chemistry to pursue the laboratory work. (3) A limited number of auditors composed of citizens of the city will be admitted on applying for a seating to the director of the department. The lectures will be given at 4 p.m., in the Doremus Lecture Theater, Chemistry Building, 140th Street and Convent Avenue, Plaza Entrance.

The program is as follows:

February 4—"Sanitation" (introductory lecture), by Professor Charles Baskerville, director of the department of chemistry, College of the City of New York.

February 9—"Drinking Water and Disease," by Dr. William P. Mason, professor of chemistry, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N. Y.

February 10—"Sources of Municipal Water Supply," by Dr. William P. Mason.

February 11—"The Purification of Polluted Water," by Dr. William P. Mason.

February 15—"Milk," by Dr. Thomas C. Darlington, commissioner of health, New York City.

February 18—"The Purpose, Method and Extent of Food Adulteration," by Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, chief, Bureau of Chemistry, U. S. Government, Washington, D. C.

February 19—"The Remedy of Food Adulteration and Relation of Chemistry thereto," by Dr. Harvey W. Wiley.

February 25—"Food Inspection," by Mr. Bayard C. Fuller, chief food inspector, New York City.

March 1—"Spoiled Foods," by Mr. Bayard C. Fuller.

March 4—"Drugs and their Adulteration," by Dr. Virgil Coblentz, professor of chemistry, College of Pharmacy, Columbia University.

March 8—"Methods for Detecting Adulteration," by Dr. Virgil Coblentz.

March 11—"Habit Inducing Drugs," by Dr. Virgil Coblentz.

April 1—"Automobile Traffic and the Road Problem," by Dr. Allerton S. Cushman, acting director, Bureau of Roads, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

April 2—"Modern Road Construction," by Dr. Allerton S. Cushman.

April 5—"Street Sanitation," by Hon. William H. Edwards, commissioner of street cleaning, New York City.

April 8—"Disposal of Ashes and Light Rubbish," by Mr. Edward D. Very, sanitary engineer, department of street cleaning, and representative of the New York Sanitary Utilization Company.