

to many other industries such as the wall-paper, printing and paint industries requiring lakes and pigments.

In 1870, the time when this industry commenced to be transferred to Germany, organic chemistry was not recognized by our older universities, and the newer universities, which since then had done so much for the progress of science, did not exist. Many of our universities and particularly those of Oxford and Cambridge, and those in Scotland, contributed practically nothing to the advancement of organic chemistry in the latter part of last century, and even now their output of research was far less than it should be. In Germany, as soon as the importance of the subject became apparent, schools specially devoted to the subject were founded by such teachers as Liebig, Wöhler, Kekulé and Baeyer.

The president then dealt with the deficiency of dyes in this country, and referred to the schemes proposed by the government to ascertain the best means of obtaining sufficient supplies of chemical products. The grant of £100,000 which the government proposed to make to the company for research purposes would be better employed in subsidizing the research laboratories of those universities and colleges which were willing to specialize in organic chemistry, and to train a certain number of students with a view to their entering the services of the company. The existing dye works in this country compared very unfavorably, he said, with those in Germany, where experience had been in favor of building large works and against spreading manufacturing operations over small works situated in different parts of the country. Moreover, in the manufacture of any substance, by-products resulted which must be either recovered or used in the manufacture of other saleable products, and in order that these by-products might be used to the best advantage the dovetailing operations should be carried out on the same site, and thus save transporting the by-products from one works to another—an operation that must entail loss. The proposal of the government, therefore, to take over the existing works in this country appeared a doubtful policy.

INTERSTATE CONFERENCE ON CEREAL INVESTIGATIONS

THE undersigned committee on arrangements respectfully announce that on May 25-28, 1915, an Interstate Conference on Investigations of Cereals will be held in California. This proposed conference is the outgrowth of suggestion and expressed desires on the part of many investigators for a number of years that such a conference be held for the purpose of conferring on the various phases of all cereal research but particularly those more difficult problems concerning which there is difference of opinion, different methods of work, different points of attack and considerable variation in results, in order that these differences may be better understood by each other and that all such investigations be more coordinate and effective hereafter.

It seems that the fact that there are no other meetings at that time to conflict with this one and the fact that it is near harvest time in that region would be much in favor of having the conference at the time stated. It is realized that the time may be inopportune for some and that many in the eastern part of the United States will not be able to attend. It is hoped, however, that even of those in the east there may be certain ones who would in any case visit California about that time and who would avail themselves of the opportunity to take part in the conference. It is hoped and expected that there will be a good attendance from the territory west of the Mississippi River. A number have already signified their intention of being present and several have submitted titles of papers.

The arrangements are: To meet at Merced Tuesday, May 25, for a field inspection of the San Joaquin Valley cereals, go to Berkeley the evening of the same day and begin the conference proper the morning of the 26th at the University of California; continue the program the next day at the State Experiment Farm at Davis and finish the day with an inspection of the farm; then go to Chico in the evening or the next morning and visit the Plant Introduction Garden of the United States Department of Agriculture on the 28th. During the same day those who wish will go

by automobile to Biggs to inspect the Rice Experiment Farm at that place. That day will end the conference, after which the individual delegates will spend such other time and go to such other points within the state as they desire.

The following are proposed as general subjects for discussion, under each of which such subtopics may be discussed by different members as their inclination may dictate:

1. Problems of Pacific coast wheat production.
2. Improvement of barley for the Pacific coast.
3. Problems in cereal smuts.
4. Grading, milling, malting and baking.
5. Weed control in cereal production.
6. Tillage and crop rotation.
7. Insect enemies of cereals.

A program in detail will be issued later. It is expected that the discussions will cover a broad field. Millers, malsters and other dealers in grain, as well as agronomists, pathologists, chemists and entomologists are expected to attend. Among the foreign investigators expected to be present is Dr. F. Kølpin Ravn, professor of plant pathology at the Royal Landbohøjskolen, Copenhagen, Denmark. It is requested that each one expecting to attend make the fact known at once to some member of the committee. Titles of papers should be sent to M. A. Carleton, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., and any other communications of inquiry concerning arrangements for meetings and other local information to Dr. J. W. Gilmore, University of California, Berkeley, Cal.

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THE HARPSWELL LABORATORY

THE Harpswell Laboratory, which has been maintained for several years at South Harpswell, Maine, as an institution of research, has

been incorporated under the laws of Maine and has been placed in charge of a board of ten trustees. According to its charter, it is to be devoted to scientific study and investigation, while its constitution provides that institutions contributing funds to a specified amount will be entitled to appoint a trustee to represent its interests in the laboratory, the remaining trustees being elected annually by the corporation. The membership of the corporation includes those who have conducted investigations there and who have paid annual dues of one dollar for the current year.

Since its establishment, the laboratory has afforded facilities to 79 different individuals who have carried on investigations there. These have represented 43 institutions of learning. There have been published as based wholly or in part on investigations in this laboratory about sixty papers, making a total of about two thousand pages, illustrated by many figures and plates.

During the last season fourteen persons carried on research at the laboratory, these coming from Tufts College, Wellesley College, Wistar Institute, Johns Hopkins University, Northwestern University, Washington University and the University of Illinois. Their investigations covered: The exact homologies of the somites in the lower vertebrates, origin of taste-buds in Elasmobranchs, the nerves of the electric organs in skates, the morphology of the lungs and airsacs in birds, structure and functions of the ampullæ of *Lorenzini*, the development of the Piperaceæ, structure and development of the epiphysial organs of the dogfish, early development of *Clava*, development of liver and pancreas of *Acanthias*, the morphology of the hypophysis of Elasmobranchs and the skull of the dogfish.

The most important addition to the equipment for the year was a motor boat, 26 feet long with a two-cylinder, ten horse-power engine which puts all parts of Casco Bay within easy reach. The boat which had served for ten years was too small and had developed some of the infirmities of age. The library has been increased by several gifts and now contains over a thousand volumes and