

# SCIENCE

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## THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

### ACCOUNT OF THE CELEBRATION

IN eighteen hundred and sixteen the United States Coast Survey was organized under Mr. Ferdinand Rudolph Hassler, as superintendent, and field work was begun.

This event was fittingly celebrated in Washington on the fifth and sixth of April last by public meetings in the auditorium of the New National Museum at Washington at which papers were presented by representative men in the fields of science, engineering, commerce, government and military affairs.

The celebration closed with a banquet at the New Willard Hotel, the evening of the sixth, at which the President of the United States was the principal speaker. The other banquet addresses were by the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of Commerce, the minister of Switzerland, and former superintendent of the Survey, Dr. T. C. Mendenhall.

The superintendent of the Survey, Mr. E. Lester Jones, presided at the banquet and at the three public sessions at the museum. He opened the session with well-chosen remarks and was followed by Mr. Redfield, Secretary of Commerce, the department of which the Survey is a bureau. Mr. Redfield paid a tribute to the valuable work done by the members of the Survey during the hundred years of its existence. He made a plea for support from the public and from Congress in order that the Survey might greatly extend its usefulness to the science, industries, commerce and defense of the nation.

The program of papers presented at the general sessions was given on page 421 of *SCIENCE* of March 24, 1916. The paper by Admiral Pillsbury was read by title only, as he was ill and not able to appear. Each of the papers presented some particular phase of the survey's activities and in a number of cases there was shown how its work was related to that of some of the other organizations of the government.

The address by President Wilson at the banquet, the paper of Dr. George Otis Smith and abstracts of the other papers and addresses follow this brief account of the celebration.

A very interesting feature of the celebration was an elaborate exhibit of the instruments, charts and publications of the survey, some of them dating back to the earliest years of its history. A series of enlarged photographs showed in a very clear and impressive way the modern field operations of the survey.

The proceedings at the celebration, including the addresses delivered, will be published in one volume by the survey.

WILLIAM BOWIE

#### ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

*Mr. Minister, Mr. Superintendent, Ladies and Gentlemen:* I had another reason for asking to come last. I remember reading with appreciation in the preface of a volume of essays written by a very witty English writer a passage to this effect: The pleasure with which a man reads his own books is largely dependent upon how much of them has been written by somebody else; and I have found that my enjoyment of making speeches after dinner is almost directly in proportion to the amount of inspiration that I can derive from others.

It was manifestly impossible for me to make such preparation for addressing you

to-night as I should have wished to make in order to show my very great respect and admiration for this service of the government. I can only say that I have come here for the purpose of expressing that admiration. I have been very much interested in the speeches that I have heard to-night, not only because of what they contained, but also because of many of the implications which were to be drawn from them. I was very much interested indeed in the excellent address of the representative of the free and admirable republic of Switzerland. He reminded us of what we must constantly remember, our very great intellectual debt to Switzerland, as well as to the many other countries from which we draw so much of our vitality and so much of the scientific work which has been accomplished in America.

As he was speaking, I was reminded (if there are Pennsylvanians present, I hope they will forgive this story) of a toast mischievously offered at a banquet in Philadelphia by a gentleman who was not himself a Pennsylvanian. He said he proposed the memory of the three most distinguished Pennsylvanians, Benjamin Franklin, of Massachusetts; James Wilson, of Scotland, and Albert Gallatin, of Switzerland. I dare say that in many American communities similar toasts could very truly and with historical truth be offered. And I myself had the privilege of sitting under one of the distinguished Swiss scholars to whom reference was made, Dr. Arnold Guyot, under whom I pretended to study geology. Doctor Guyot was not responsible for its not being carried beyond the stage of pretence.

I feel myself in a certain sense in familiar company to-night, because a very great part of my life has been spent in association with men of science. I have often wished, particularly since I entered public life, that