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#### "EXPEDITE THE MAP"

A COMMITTEE to "Expedite the Completion of the Topographic Map of the United States" has been formed on the invitation of the undersigned, and its circulars have lately been sent out to engineers and others in all parts of the country, asking their support of the movement. Although appropriations made by congress have been liberal, although a number of states have cooperated generously, and although topographic mapping has been industriously prosecuted by the U. S. Geological

Survey for the last thirty-five years, only about 40 per cent. of our national domain is at present represented on standard topographic maps. The area annually covered was greater at first, when the work was less accurate, than now, since the demand for better maps has arisen: at the present rate, about a century will be required to complete the maps, and long before that time elapses the demand for maps of larger scale and still greater accuracy will retard the rate of progress, unless large funds are forthcoming. For ten years past, something over half a million dollars has been spent annually on field work alone. This large sum should be steadily increased until it is at least doubled, in order that too great a delay before maps of the whole country are available shall be avoided. A rapid increase in appropriations is not desirable, because only a relatively small number of trained topographers are available for the work; but the increase should be continued annually for some ten or fifteen years to come.

Every industry, art and science which demands a knowledge of the lay of the land is benefited by good maps of the area in which it is carried on. The general location of railways and highways, the planning of water-supply, irrigation and drainage projects, the prosecution of geological, soil and forest surveys, the development of water powers and the installation of electric transmission lines, the promotion of large-scale realty transactions such as are common in the less settled parts of the country, are all aided immensely if good topographic maps of their areas are available, and are correspondingly embarrassed if such maps are wanting. Practical men, who have had experience in mapped and in unmapped areas, can testify to the ease and the difficulty of work in the two cases.

It is the wish of the committee to secure letters from such men in all parts of the country as to the value of the maps in the surveyed areas and as to the need of maps in the unsurveyed areas. The testimony thus gathered will be submitted to the director of the U. S. Geological Survey, as the basis of an urgent request that he should ask for larger appro-

priations for topographic work; and if he does so, the correspondents of the committee to "expedite the map" will be requested to appeal to their congressmen in support of the director's budget. Readers of *SCIENCE* who have experience regarding the value and the need of maps are urged to take part in this campaign by writing to the secretary of the committee, Professor A. E. Burton, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.

The other members of the committee are Robert Bacon, president, National Security League, New York; Arthur H. Blanchard, consulting engineer, National Highway Association, professor of highway engineering, Columbia University, New York; G. P. Coleman, state commissioner of highways, Richmond, Va.; G. E. Condra, president, National Conservation Congress, State University, Lincoln, Nebr.; W. L. Darling, chief engineer, Northern Pacific Railway Company, St. Paul, Minn.; R. E. Dodge, president, National Council Geography Teachers, Teachers College, New York; A. B. Fletcher, state highway engineer, Sacramento, Calif.; W. Cameron Forbes, of J. M. Forbes and Co., Boston, Mass.; John R. Freeman, consulting engineer, Providence, R. I.; W. O. Hotchkiss, state geologist, Madison, Wis.; F. H. Newell, professor of civil engineering, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.; Joseph H. Pratt, state geologist, Chapel Hill, N. C.; Wm. Barclay Parsons, consulting engineer, New York; Charles A. Stone, of Stone and Webster, Boston, president, International Corporation, New York; Frank M. Williams, state engineer, Albany, N. Y.

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#### THE COMMITTEE ON POLICY OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE committee on policy met at the Hotel Belmont, New York City, on Saturday, September 30, 1916, at 1 P.M. There were present: Messrs. Nichols, Woodward, Paton, Hum-

phreys, Cattell, Noyes, Fairchild, Pickering, MacDougal and Howard.

Mr. Paton read an informal report from the committee on delegates to the meetings. This was followed by a general discussion, after which it was moved and carried that in subsequent letters sent by this committee the authorities be asked especially to send men who will take an active part in the proceedings.

Mr. Pickering made a report for the committee on the Colburn Fund. After discussion, it was moved that the report be approved and recommended to the council for adoption.

After discussion, Mr. Noyes moved to recommend to the council the appointment of a committee of seven on grants for research which shall be authorized to apply the income of the research funds of the association and that such committee be appointed by the president with the advice of the committee on policy.

The treasurer reported for the committee on investments. It was moved and carried that this report be presented to the council with the recommendation that it be published.

The treasurer made a verbal report on certain features connected with the funds of the association and offered to keep in the safety vault of the Carnegie Institution the bonds and other financial papers of the association in charge of two trusted accountants whom, by way of partial compensation, he proposed personally to make life members of the association. This offer the committee accepted with thanks.

Mr. MacDougal reported verbally on the San Diego meeting of the Pacific Division and a long discussion on the welfare of the association ensued.

Mr. MacDougal moved the appointment of a subcommittee of three to consider the relation of the association to scientific organizations in general, to report to the committee on policy in December. Carried. The chairman appointed as this committee, Messrs. MacDougal, Paton and Fairchild.

Mr. Humphreys brought up the question of the publication by the association, or under its auspices, of a distinctly popular journal.