

SCIENCE

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CONTENTS

<i>The State Geologist and Conservation: PROFESSOR A. H. PURDUE</i>	249
<i>The Stanford Meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science: DR. A. L. BARROWS.</i>	252
<i>Scientific Events:—</i>	
<i>Advisory Board on Wild Life Protection in Canada; Professor Blanchard on the Geography of France; The Hayden Memorial Award; Committees of the National Research Council</i>	254
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	256
<i>University and Educational News</i>	258
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>When is a Force Not a Force? DR. ANDREW H. PATTERSON</i>	259
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>Kober and Hanson's Diseases of Occupation and Vocational Hygiene: PROFESSOR C. E. A. WINSLOW</i>	260
<i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences: PROFESSOR EDWIN BIDWELL WILSON.</i>	261
<i>Notes on Meteorology and Climatology: DR. C. F. BROOKS</i>	263
<i>Special Articles:—</i>	
<i>Experiments with the Foucault Pendulum: PROFESSOR CARL BARUS</i>	265
<i>Societies and Academies:—</i>	
<i>The American Mathematical Society: PROFESSOR F. N. COLE. Oklahoma Academy of Science: L. B. NICE</i>	271

THE STATE GEOLOGIST AND CONSERVATION¹

By conservation now-a-days is meant the best use of our natural resources, without waste. Probably the responsibility of conservation rests more upon the state geologist than any other state official, because he is the one, more than any other, whose duty it is to study and inform the public upon the occurrence, quality, quantity and uses of the natural resources of the state he serves.

INEXHAUSTIBLE RESOURCES

Natural resources may be divided into two kinds: Those that are inexhaustible and those that are exhaustible. Of the former are such as sand, clay, road materials, building stone and water power. But while these and others are inexhaustible in quantity, they do not occur universally, so may become, and in most places do become, products upon which it is vitally important that the public be informed.

Here it might be well to call attention to the fact that geologists somewhat, and the public to a large extent, lose sight of the common things, in their anxiety to discover and develop the rare ones. Often a bed of shale for brick making, sand for building, gravel for concrete, or limestone for cement, fertilizer, or other purposes, is of more local importance than a bed of coal, iron ore, or some other of the less common products. A bluff of stone may stand unused for years, before some one will see its value, perhaps for railroad ballast or con-

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