

tons of ore, compared with 134,002 tons in 1916, an increase of 7.5 per cent.

The imports of iron ore for the eleven months ending November 30, 1917, according to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, amounted to 913,500 gross tons, so that probably the imports for the whole year reached 988,500 tons, compared with 1,325,736 tons in 1916.

THE FISHERIES CONFERENCE

THE members of the Canadian-American Fisheries Conference held recently in Washington, were received by the President at the White House on January 22, 1918. The President expressed great satisfaction at the cordial and friendly spirit which had manifested itself during the continuance of the conference. The following gentlemen were presented to the President by Hon. William C. Redfield, secretary of commerce and chairman of the conference: Hon. J. Douglas Hazen, chief justice, of New Brunswick; Mr. George J. Desbarats, deputy minister of naval service, and Mr. William A. Found, superintendent of fisheries, of the Canadian delegation; Mr. Edwin F. Sweet, assistant secretary of commerce; Dr. Hugh M. Smith, commissioner of fisheries, of the American delegation; Mr. Arnold Robertson, first secretary of the British Embassy, and Mr. Maitland Dwight, of the department of state, secretaries of the conference.

The conference held eight sessions and made satisfactory progress toward reaching an arrangement suitable to all concerned. Among the questions discussed were the following:

The protection of the salmon in and around the Fraser River; the protection of the halibut, which has been overfished, the center of this industry being Seattle, Vancouver, Prince Rupert and Ketchikan, on the Pacific; equitable rules governing the use of Canadian and American ports by the fishing vessels of both countries, however propelled; the lobster fisheries of the Atlantic; pike-perch fishing in Lake Champlain, and the possible passage of rules relating to the whale industry.

The conference is looking forward to the

privilege of consulting the fishing interests at the hearings which it is proposed to hold in New England and in the maritime provinces of Canada in the near future. It is also proposed to visit the Pacific coast, and it is hoped that these hearings will throw some light on the subject with a view to a satisfactory settlement being reached.

The whole conference is desirous of establishing the present law and practise as regards the fish industry, and believes that with this as a basis a satisfactory conclusion may be attained.

The Canadian delegates extended an invitation to the American delegates to visit Ottawa some time before the conclusion of the conference.

MEDICAL TRAINING CAMPS

EXTENSIONS are being made to the scope of the medical training camps at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., and Fort Riley, Kans., by the addition of courses in specialties required of the Medical, Sanitary and Veterinary Corps under Surgeon General Gorgas. There are at present 5,400 officers and men under training at Fort Oglethorpe and 3,800 at Fort Riley. Fort Riley has a capacity of 7,000. Enlargement of the school at Fort Oglethorpe to the same capacity has been authorized, its present capacity being 5,500. The ultimate needs of the Medical Department of the Army look to training camps of capacities totaling 35,000 to 40,000 officers and men.

There have been graduated from medical training camps since June 1, or are now under instruction, a total of about 9,000 officers and about 20,000 enlisted men. Until December 1 the medical training camp at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind., and the one at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, for colored officers and men, had been contributing to the total, but these camps have been discontinued.

Ten new sections have recently been or are now being established for officers in the medical training camps. These are for the following:

(1) X-ray specialists; (2) orthopedic surgeons; (3) psychologists; (4) special examining surgeons; (5) sanitary engineers; (6)

veterinarians; (7) sanitarians; (8) hospital administration; (9) laboratory specialists (being established); (10) dental surgeons (being established).

Consideration is being given to plans for the establishment of three additional courses, one in general military surgery, one for genito-urinary surgery, and one for military surgery of the brain, head and face.

Various special groups now in active service have been trained since the opening of the schools. These include officers and men to operate ambulance companies, field hospitals, evacuation hospitals, base hospitals, hospital trains, etc.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR FRIDTJOF NANSEN, of the University of Kristiania, Norway, now in Washington as Minister Plenipotentiary of Norway on special mission to the United States of America, has been elected an honorary member of the Washington Academy of Sciences. Dr. Nansen on January 31 gave an address before the academy on "Changes in oceanic and atmospheric temperatures and their relation to changes in the sun's activity."

FRANK AUSTIN GOOCH, Ph.D., professor of chemistry and director of the Kent Chemical Laboratory of Yale University, will retire at the end of the present year. Professor Gooch will be succeeded by Professor Bertram Borden Boltwood, since 1910 professor of radio-chemistry.

At the meeting of the Ecological Society of America in Pittsburgh, officers for 1918 were elected as follows: *President*, Dr. Henry C. Cowles, University of Chicago; *Vice-president*, Dr. Robert E. Coker, Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.; *Secretary-treasurer*, Dr. Forrest Shreve, Desert Laboratory, Tucson, Ariz.

DR. E. M. FREEMAN, dean of the college of agriculture of the University of Minnesota, was elected president of the American Phytopathological Association at the Pittsburgh meeting.

THE officers of the Washington Academy of Sciences for 1918 are as follows: *President*, Lyman J. Briggs, of the Bureau of Plant Industry; *Corresponding secretary*, Robert B. Sosman, of the Geophysical Laboratory; *Recording secretary*, W. R. Maxon, of the National Museum; *Treasurer*, William Bowie, of the Coast and Geodetic Survey; *Non-resident Vice-presidents*, T. A. Jaggar, Jr., of Hawaii, and B. L. Robinson, of Cambridge; *Members of Board of Managers*, T. H. Kearney and A. C. Spencer; *Vice-presidents* representing the affiliated societies: G. K. Burgess, Philosophical Society; J. R. Swanton, Anthropological Society; J. N. Rose, Biological Society; T. H. Kearney, Botanical Society; F. B. Power, Chemical Society; W. D. Hunter, Entomological Society; O. H. Tittmann, Geographic Society; W. C. Mendenhall, Geological Society; P. S. Roy, Medical Society; A. C. Clark, Historical Society; A. Hrdlicka, Archeological Institute; R. Zon, Society of Foresters; E. F. Wendt, Society of Engineers; P. G. Agnew, Institute of Electrical Engineers.

DR. CHARLES V. NORRIS, Chief of the Pathological Laboratories of Bellevue Hospital, has been appointed by Mayor Hylan to be chief medical examiner for New York City.

DR. L. C. GLENN, of Vanderbilt University, has been made acting state geologist on the Tennessee Geological Survey until a successor to the late Dr. A. H. Purdue can be secured. Dr. J. I. D. Hinds, of Lebanon, has been appointed chemist of the Tennessee survey. A short time before the death of Dr. Purdue, he asked Dr. Hinds to take this position as successor of Dr. Paul C. Bowers, who had been called to Washington for government service, and he has been in charge of the state work since December 10.

MAJOR GRAYSON M. P. MURPHY, of New York, has resigned as head of the American Red Cross Commission to Europe. It is reported that he will return to service in the U. S. Army. Major James W. Perkins of New York, who has been serving with the