Only in this and in one other respect did the conference propose any change in the French system. The second change is one of nomenclature only, but it is of some importance. In the French system the time zones are numbered eastward from 0 to 23 hours, which, while in many respects convenient, has the disadvantage that it does not give without ambiguity the reduction from the time of any zone to the time and date of Greenwich. The conference therefore recommended that

> The zone extending from 7½ degrees east to 7½ degrees west of the meridian of Greenwich should be the Zero Zone. The zones west of the Zero Zone should be described as Plus 1, Plus 2 . . . up to Plus 12 for that part of Zone 12 lying east of the date line (*i. e.*, the line described in the Admiralty Sailing Directions based on the 180th meridian, on crossing which from east to west the date must be advanced or put back one day respectively), and the zones east of the Zero Zone should be described as Minus 1, Minus 2 . . . up to Minus 12, for that part of Zone 12 lying west of the date line.

To ensure the application of the above scheme the conference considered it desirable

(*a*) That the alteration of the time of the clocks in ships should always be one hour, and be invariably recorded in the ship's log; but the instant at which the clock is altered need not necessarily be that at which the ship passes from one zone to another.

(*b*) That the zone description, *i. e.*, the correction required to obtain Greenwich time, be always plainly shown on the clocks, either by labels or otherwise.

(*c*) That in all entries in ship's records, whenever a date is given it should be accompanied by the zone description; and that in all official communications and correspondence, when a time is given the zone description should be added.

(*d*) That for all regular meteorological observations the ship's clock time should be used. That, as a rule, all self-recording meteorological instruments on board ship (which it would be difficult to adjust continually for zone time) should keep Greenwich time; the zone description should be entered daily on the record.

## MEETING OF PETROLEUM GEOLOGISTS

AT a meeting of petroleum geologists held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on February 15 and 16, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists was formed. The new organization was largely a change of name and widening of scope of activites of a highly successful local organization, the Southwestern Association of Petroleum Geologists, which has been in existence for three years. Over 100 geologists from various parts of the country were present. The widespread interest in petroleum geology and the large number of men now engaged in the profession was thought to warrant a national organization and the momentum gained by the local body assured the success of such a step.

Thos. M. O'Donnell, representing the Federal Fuel Administration, addressed the meeting and brought assurance from Washington that there need be no fear of hampering interference from his department as long as the oil men of the country did their patriotic duty and exerted their utmost efforts to maintain an adequate supply of oil to meet war demands.

An evening session was entertained with a talk by Professor James F. Kemp, on the geologic problems connected with the New York water supply, illustrated by stereopticon slides. The same session was addressed by Dr. I. C. White, who gave an interesting account of the huge gushers of Mexico. Dr. White's connection with the Doheny interests in Mexico gave weight and interest to his remarks on this subject through the courtesy of Mr. E. L. Doheny the moving pictures of the Huasteca Petroleum Company's wonderful well, Cerro Azul No. 4, were exhibited.

Professor R. D. Salisbury, of the University of Chicago, attended the meeting and was greeted by some twenty students of his department, who are now interested in the oil business of the southwest.

The list of papers presented at the several technical sessions included:

> The distribution of underground salt water and its relation to the accumulation of oil and gas, by Roswell H. Johnson, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The oil fields of Cuba, by E. L. De Golyer, New York, N. Y.

The relations of former shore lines to oil accumulation, by A. W. McCoy, Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

The bend formation as a source of oil in northwest Texas, by W. E. Wrather, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Contributions to the stratigraphy of the red beds, by D. W. O'Hern, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Papers were read covering points of geologic interest brought out by the past year's development as follows: the Gulf Coast, by Alexander Deussen, Houston, Texas; Kansas, by R. L. Moore, Lawrence, Kansas; Kentucky, by J. W. Pemberton, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Northwest Louisiana, by Mowery Bates, Tulsa, Okla.

Officers elected for the current year were: *President,* Alexander Deussen, Houston, Texas; *Vice-president,* Dr. I. C. White, Morgantown, West Va.; *Secretary-Treasurer,* W. E. Wrather, Wichita Falls, Texas; and Editor, Charles H. Taylor, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The next meeting of the association will be held in Houston, Texas, the exact date to be announced later.

### THE RESEARCH INFORMATION COMMITTEE

By joint action the Secretaries of War and Navy, with the approval of the Council of National Defense, have authorized and approved the organization, through the National Research Council, of a Research Information Committee in Washington with branch committees in Paris and London, which are intended to work in close cooperation with the officers of the Military and Naval Intelligence, and whose function shall be the securing, classifying and disseminating of scientific technical and industrial research information, especially relating to war problems, and the interchange of such information between the allies in Europe and the United States.

The Washington committee consists of

(*a*) A civilian member, representing the National Research Council; Dr. S. W. Stratton, chairman.

(*b*) The chief, Military Intelligence Section.

(*c*) The Director of Naval Intelligence.

The initial organization of the committee in London is

(*a*) The scientific attaché representing the Research Information Committee; Dr. H. A. Bumstead, attaché.

(*b*) The military attaché, or an officer deputed to act for him.

(*c*) The naval attaché, or an officer deputed to act for him.

The initial organization of the committee in Paris is

(*a*) The scientific attaché representing the Research Information Committee, Dr. W. F. Durand, attaché.

(*b*) The military attaché, or an officer deputed to act for him.

(*c*) The naval attaché, or an officer deputed to act for him.

The chief functions of the foreign committees thus organized are intended to be as follows:

(*a*) The development of contact with all important research laboratories or agencies, governmental or private; the compilation of problems and subjects under investigation; and the collection and compilation of the results attained.

(*b*) The classification, organization and preparation of such information for transmission to the Research Information Committee in Washington.

(*c*) The maintenance of continuous contact with the work of the officers of military and naval attachés in order that all duplication of work or crossing of effort may be avoided, with the consequent waste of time and energy and the confusion resulting from crossed or duplicated effort.

(*d*) To serve as an immediate auxiliary to the offices of the military and naval attachés in the collection, analysis and compilation of scientific, technical and industrial research information.

(*e*) To serve as an agency at the immediate service of the commander-in-chief of the military or naval forces in Europe for the collection and analysis of scientific and technical research information, and as an auxiliary to such direct military and naval agencies as may be in use for the purpose.

(*f*) To serve as centers of distribution to the