Franklin, of Leland Stanford University; William Hoskins, chemical engineer of Chicago; Professor H. P. Talbot, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Ira Remsen, president emeritus of Johns Hopkins University; Professor F. W. Richards, of Harvard; Dr. Charles L. Parsons, of the Bureau of Mines; Dr. Reed Hunt, of Harvard; Professor W. D. Bancroft, of Cornell; Professor A. B. Lamb, of the Havemeyer Laboratory, New York University; W. K. Lewis, Chemical Engineer of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Professor C. A. Hulett, of Princeton; Yandell Henderson, of the Yale Medical School, and Dr. F. B. Underhill, of Yale.

In a letter dated June 26 to Dr. Van H. Manning, chief of the Bureau of Mines, notifying him of the coordination of war gas experimental work in the War Department, President Wilson wrote as follows :

I have had before me for some days the question presented by the Secretary of War involving the transfer of the chemical section established by you at the American University from the Bureau of Mines to the newly organized Division of Gas Warfare, in which the War Department is now concentrating all the various facilities for offensive and defensive gas operations. I am satisfied that a more efficient organization can be effected by having these various activities under one direction and control, and my hesitation about acting in the matter has grown only out of a reluctance to take away from the Bureau of Mines a piece of work which thus far it has so effectively performed. The Secretary of War has assured me of his own recognition of the splendid work you have been able to do, and I am taking the liberty of inclosing a letter which I have received from him in order that you may see how fully the War Department recognizes the value of the services.

I am to-day signing the order directing the transfer. I want, however, to express to you my own appreciation of the fine and helpful piece of work which you have done, and to say that this sort of teamwork by the bureaus outside of the direct war-making agency is one of the cheering and gratifying evidences of the way our official forces are inspired by the presence of a great national task.

WAR ACTIVITIES OF THE U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

BY executive order dated May 16, 1918, the President transferred to the service and jurisdiction of the Navy Department for temporary use the Coast and Geodetic Survey steamers *Patterson* and *Explorer,* including their equipment and personnel other than commissioned officers. These vessels have been employed for many years in surveys on the Pacific coast and chiefly on the coast of Alaska.

Since the beginning of the war the work of this bureau has been almost entirely for military purposes. Five vessels, three on the Atlantic and two on the Pacific coast, have been transferred to the Navy, and about twenty-three per cent. of the personnel has been transferred to some branch of the military service. Of the remaining force most of the field officers are engaged in land or hydrographic surveys for the Army or Navy, and a large portion of the office force is employed in reducing and publishing the results thus obtained.

A very important part of the office work is the preparation and production of charts, coast pilots and tide tables for vessels of the Navy and Merchant Marine, including those operated by the Shipping Board, the Railroad Administration, the Coast Guard and the Bureau of Lighthouses. The officers of the Survey are trained in work of triangulation, precise leveling, astronomic work, hydrographic surveying and chart construction, and are particularly available for service as navigation officers in the Navy and for duty with the Corps of Engineers, the Artillery Corps and the Aviation Service of the Army.

MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS

THE various parties sent out by the Carnegie Department of Terrestrial Magnetism and the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, have all reported securing successful series of magnetic observations during the time of the total solar eclipse of June 8. Magnetic observations were made by the Coast and Geodetic Survey at Green River, Wyo., Mena, Ark., and Orlando, Fla. In addition data will be obtained from the various magnetic observatories of the Coast and Geodetic Survey.